



CAERPHILLY TOWN CENTRE MANAGEMENT GROUP

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT PENALLTA HOUSE, TREDOMEN PARK ON WEDNESDAY 18TH JUNE 2008 AT 2.00 PM

PRESENT:

Councillors:

P. Bevan, J.E. Fussell, G.G. Hibbert, S. Kent and Mrs L. Williams
R. Davies – Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Countryside

Together with:

I. MacVicar (Business Development Officer), A. Dallimore (Urban Renewal Manager),
A. Highway (Town Centre Development Manager), S. Beacham (Senior Parks Officer),
P. Hudson (Tourism Officer), J. Elliott (Research Officer), T. White (Refuse and Cleansing
Officer), H. Cunningham (GAVO) and D. Phillips (Partnership Support Officer).

Also Present:

R. Williams (CRA), E. Talbot (CIRP), K. Williams (Caerphilly Town Council), J. Couzens
(Castle Court Shopping Centre), R. Gough (GAVO), P. Massey (Cadw) and PC D. Morgan
(Gwent Police).

APOLOGIES

J. Stephens (CADW), Councillors M.H. Newman and M. Prew, Mrs. S. Cooper (Caerphilly
Access Group) and D. Nutt (Tourism Officer – CCBC).

1. CHAIRMAN / VICE-CHAIRMAN

Councillor P. Bevan was elected as Chairman and Councillor J. Fussell Vice-Chairman of the
Management Group.

2. WELCOME

The Chairman welcomed Councillor R Davies, Cabinet Member for Regeneration, to the
meeting of the Management Group.

3. MINUTES

RESOLVED that the following minutes be approved as a correct record:-

Caerphilly Town Centre Management Management Group held on 19th March 2008.

MATTERS ARISING

4. Top of Town Development (Minute No 1)

The Group were reminded that the developer had sent his apologies to the previous meeting and members had not therefore be given an opportunity to question details of the development. Although planning permission had been granted a number of months ago for the new development no physical progress had been made and a number of rumours were circulating regarding the feasibility of the scheme in the current financial climate.

It was reported that a meeting would be held tomorrow to agree a corporate strategy approach and that the Leader and two Cabinet members would be meeting with the Welsh Assembly Government on the 21st July to discuss the proposed development.

5. Taxi Rank Proposal for Castle Street (minute no 4)

Mr Couzens confirmed that no one had contacted him to discuss alternative taxi rank sites.

Councillor Hibbert reported that he had written to the Transportation Manager expressing concern regarding the distance of the disabled parking spaces in relation to the new post office. A response had indicated that there was no suitable location for additional disabled parking spaces.

It was reported however that the disabled parking spaces outside Argos and the bus drop off bay tend to be used by post office customers.

6. Caerphilly Flower Festival (minute no 7)

Mr. Beacham, Senior Parks Officer, reported that arrangements are progressing well for the Flower Festival on the 27th and 28th July.

7. EISTEDDFOD GATE

Mr. Dallimore circulated a number of drawings and outlined details of various options to re-instate an Eisteddfod Gate at Crescent Road in order to commemorate the hosting of the Eisteddfod at Caerphilly in the 1950's .

(Councillor Davies declared an interest in this item as he is a member of the Gorsedd of Bards).

The design and position of the gate would take into account the needs of the successful Big Cheese event held at this location every Summer.

The cost of the project would be approximately £35-40k and the council would welcome a contribution from the Town Council.

The various drawings were discussed and also the possibility of siting the archway at the public footpath junction to prevent it from looking isolated. This may not be feasible because of access issues when large vehicles use the field during the Big Cheese week- end. Also if the proposed position was not chosen it would not be where the original gate was sited. It was also suggested that flower beds on either side would make it look more attractive although it was recognised that this would then have an on-going maintenance cost. Although it was reported that only part of one pillar remains, it was suggested that the drawings of the archway closest to the original would seem to be sensible as it was being used to illustrate a part of the town's history.

It was agreed that the Chairman would meet officers on site to discuss the drawings in more detail and to make a decision on the options available taking into account the comments made by the Management Group.

8. CAERPHILLY TOWN CENTRE AUDIT – MAY 2008

Details of the May Audit were noted and the following points raised: _

Page 2 – Tesco Fascia , Cardiff Road

Noted that a recent meeting had been held with the Manager of the store when he had indicated that the store would undergo a two phase refurbishment (internal and external) Concern was raised by the store manager on planning for trolley storage- this will be discussed with an appropriate officer from Development Control.

Page 2 – Developer Meeting – Cardiff Road

Discussed earlier in the meeting but also reported that the owner of the Co Co Discount building had been served with a Dangerous Building Structure notice and discussions to be held with owner of this and adjoining building to consider re-developing in isolation to the original Cardiff Road scheme.

Page 4 – Holes for Old Lighting Units

A number of options exist for filling the holes. One is to replace them with a yorkstone brick (so that the hole is effectively filled with the same material as the step) or to install metal plates with intricate detailing (arrowheads) to cap the holes.

Page 4 - Jet Wash Pillars

Work now completed – will be on annual programme in future.

Page 5 – Flower Festival

Noted the following dates:

Flower Festival – 27th /28th July

Wales in Bloom – 16th July

Britain in Bloom 13th August

Page 6 - Graffiti Removal

Police reported that graffiti is an on-going problem in the town centre – Probation Services are presently involved in clean up – need to address possible damage claims if clean graffiti off private properties – legal disclaimer being considered

Page 6 – Fly posting

Reported that there are still a few persistent people (possibly from Cardiff) defacing the town with fly posters advertising nightclubs – Officer group from various departments looking at issue.

Page 7 Bus Stop Kerb

Noted that work is programmed.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

9. Kings Arms, Cardiff Road

Reported that the Kings Arms Public House, Cardiff Road had applied to put tables and chairs outside it's premises.

The Management Group discussed the issue and agreed that they were overwhelmingly opposed to any such application.

It was agreed that Mr Highway would convey the objection to the appropriate department.

10. 52 Cardiff Road

Reported that consultation currently being held on change of use from retail premises to finance/professional services at 52 Cardiff Road- noted that a petition against proposal has been organised and suggested that it be presented to the Planning Directorate.

11. Area Forum Budget

It was reported that there is at present £16,000 in the budget – suggestions for allocating any of this money would be welcomed.

12. Caerphilly Town Centre News

Copy to be circulated to members

13. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 24th September 2008 at 2.00 pm

The meeting closed at 3.10 pm