



## **CAERPHILLY TOWN CENTRE MANAGEMENT GROUP**

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT PENALLTA HOUSE, TREDOMEN PARK  
ON WEDNESDAY 24TH SEPTEMBER 2008 AT 2.00 P.M.**

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PRESENT:

Councillor P. Bevan – Chairman  
Councillor J.E. Fussell – Vice-Chairman

Councillors:

G.G. Hibbert, M.H. Newman and S. Kent  
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), P. Hudson (Tourism Officer), J. Elliott  
(Research Officer) 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), J. Stephens (Cadw), Mrs S. Cooper  
(Caerphilly Access Group) and PC. P. Thomas (Gwent Police)

### **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors M.J. Prew and Mrs L. Williams and  
D. Price (Principal Parks and Open Spaces Officer)

### **1. MINUTES**

RESOLVED that the following minutes be approved as a correct record.

Caerphilly Town Centre Management Management Group held on 18th June 2008.

### **2. TOP OF TOWN DEVELOPMENT – VERBAL REPORT BY COUNCILLOR R. DAVIES AND R. GOUGH**

Councillor Davies reminded the Group that the Top of Town development was a very  
ambitious project led by a private developer with the council supporting and agreeing to use  
Compulsory Purchase Orders if necessary.

Unfortunately the credit crisis (resulting in the withdrawal of a financial backer to underwrite  
the scheme) and the decline in the housing market had recently delayed the development

programme.

On the 21st July, four representatives from the Council met with the deputy First Minister to discuss the financial aspects of the project. It was felt at that meeting that there was a political will and enthusiasm for the project to succeed and regenerate an area which is currently also very poor visually to visitors of the town.

The project does have planning permission and a developer – the developer has already made a considerable financial commitment to the scheme and is positive that with financial backing it can still succeed.

A new funding regime from the Assembly is due to be announced shortly (Single Regeneration Fund) and it is hopeful that this may be the type of 'innovative' development to attract funding from it.

Members were informed that should the development go ahead there would possibly be no visible evidence of work for at least 18 months.

### **3. REQUESTS FROM AREA FORUM BUDGET**

It was reported that the current budget allocation for Caerphilly Town Centre Management Group was £15,072.

The following financial requests were agreed from the Area Forum Budget.

- a) **£2,000** towards the cost of staging the Christmas Market Proposals for 2008

It was reported that consideration is being given to locating the majority of the Christmas stalls within the castle for this year's market.

Funding is needed to expand and develop the market and there needs to be sufficient entertainment to encourage visitor flow through the town.

For future events the closure of Cardiff Road may be considered and it was suggested that the former market at Pentrebane Street may be a possibility for stalls. Mr Highway indicated that he would include this suggestion on the Town Centre Audit although the condition of the premises which are vacant would need to be examined.

- £3,000** towards the cost of staging the Caerphilly Flower Festival 2009

It was reported that this annual event attracts visitors from as far as the South of England.

- b) **£1,000** towards the cost of benches at the South perimeter bank around the castle

It was noted that the Town Council would also consider a request for funding for this item.

### **4. RESULTS OF WALES AND BRITAIN IN BLOOM**

It was agreed that the request for additional flower baskets would be discussed at the next meeting.

The town had received a Silver Gilt award from Wales in Bloom and the results of the Britain in Bloom are to be announced in Chester this evening.

## 5. INFORMATION ITEMS

The following items were reported for information:

### a) Tourist Information Centre

It was indicated that an officer working group would be set up to examine a Caerphilly Town Centre Events programme

Paul Hudson reported that furniture was due to be delivered to the lower floor of the centre shortly and the area should be available to use by next week.

### b) Caerphilly Town Centre Audit – July 2008

Details of the July Audit were noted and the following points raised:-

- Holes for Lighting Scheme Units (Page 3) – Noted that the work had been completed.
- Provision of New Flags – TIC (Page 3) – New flags now in place.
- Fairtrade Town Status – (Page 4) 2 local café's now stocking fair-trade tea and coffee.
- Damage to Street Furniture (Page 4) – work completed.
- Graffiti Removal – Town Centre (Page 5) – reported that a number of approaches had been adopted (e.g. the graffiti wall at the leisure centre) and the representative from the Police reported that the number of new instances of graffiti in the town centre had dramatically reduced. A disclaimer is being developed to enable removal from private properties to proceed.
- Grant Assistance – Working men's Hall (Page 6) Allan Dallimore reported that he had met Tudor Jones (Tommy Cooper Society) on site to discuss a number of possible schemes- he had requested that the guardians/owners of the building now contact him
- Bus Stop Kerb (Page 6) Chairman indicated that he would contact the Transportation Engineering Manager about progress on this matter.
- Parking on the Grass Verge (Page 8) – work completed and item closed.
- Eisteddfod Gate (Page 10) – Allan reported that detailed drawings and a tender document being progressed – Cost approximately £18,000 and peripheral items £9,500.
- Agreed to fund **£5,000 of cost from Area Forum budget** and the Town Council also be requested to consider a contribution towards this work.
- Condition of Co Co's Building (Page 10) – Noted that the owner was reluctant to finance any improvement as building may be part of new top of town development – Allan indicated that he has suggestions of ways the building could be temporary improved and indicated that he would let the Vice-Chairman have copies.

## 6. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, 3rd December 2008 at 2.00 p.m.

The meeting closed at 3.45 p.m.