



## CAERPHILLY TOWN CENTRE MANAGEMENT GROUP

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT PENALLTA HOUSE, TREDOMEN PARK ON  
WEDNESDAY, 3RD DECEMBER 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, S. Kent, M.H. Newman, M.J. Prew and Mrs. L. Williams  
R. Davies – Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Countryside

Together with:

I. MacVicar (Business Development Officer), A. Dallimore (Urban Renewal Manager), J. Elliott (Research Officer), S. Beacham (Senior Parks Officer) and D. Phillips (Partnership Support Officer)

Also Present:

K. Robottom (CRA), E. Talbot (CIRP), J. Couzens (Castle Court Shopping Centre), J. Stephens (Cadw), Mrs. S. Cooper (Caerphilly Access Group) and PC. D. Morgan (Gwent Police).

### APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from A. Highway (Town Centre Development Manager), P. Hudson (Tourism Officer), R. Gough (GAVO) and K. Williams (Caerphilly Town Council).

### 1. MINUTES

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

Caerphilly Town Centre Management Management Group held on 24th September 2008.

### MATTERS ARISING

### 2. Top of Town Development (Minute no 2)

Councillor Davies reported that following a meeting with the Welsh Assembly Government, the developer had written to the Planning Section indicating that he considered that the scheme was still viable and should proceed.

The Leader of the Council had also written to the Deputy First Minister urging him to proceed with a decision on financial support for the development.

It was confirmed that the development would if possible proceed with a partnership approach and any funding provided by the Assembly would be repaid.

There would however need to be a return on the capital investment and this is increasing difficult in the present fragile market.

**3. Britain in Bloom (Minute no 4)**

It was reported that a silver medal had been awarded to Caerphilly in the Britain in Bloom competition. Congratulations were given by the Management Group to all the staff involved in achieving this award.

**4. Condition of Co Co's Building (Minute No 5)**

Photographs of 'wrap around screens' were circulated and it was noted that the cost would be approximately £5k to cover the Co Co's building. Allan Dallimore indicated that he would be investigating funding avenues and sponsorship and it was suggested that Cadw might be interested in promoting the castle via this method.

**5. EVAN JAMES AND THE EISTEDDFOD ARCH**

The Chairman explained the town's connection with Evan James (who was born in the town in 1809 and was the person who with his son wrote the words and music to the Welsh national Anthem) and suggested that some sort of recognition should be displayed in the town.

Allan reported that some work is planned for the area near the ground floor of the Tourist Information Centre and that it may be possible to incorporate some text to commemorate him at that area. The possibility of a statue would seem inappropriate as a Tommy Cooper statue is already in the town centre.

It was suggested that if a statue was to be considered however, a suitable location may be at Daffyd Williams Park where it was reported that an old stone plinth is presently unused there.

It was agreed that Allan would progress a few options with a vertical emphasis together with costings and budget implications of between £8-10k and present them to the next meeting of the Management Group.

It was also reported that work to erect the Eisteddfod Arch would commence on site in the New Year.

**6. ACTIVE LIVING TRAIL**

Simon Beacham circulated photographs of the equipment needed for a Life Trail Station. It was suggested that 2 be erected in Morgan Jones Park and 2 in Daffyd Williams Park. The equipment is used for gentle exercise which is incorporated with walking for the older generation (there is presently an organised walking group using the Morgan Jones park).

The cost of the equipment would be approximately £16k and it was agreed that a report be presented to the next meeting after funding steams had been explored.

**7. PLANNING APPLICATION – UNIT 5 GALLAGHER RETAIL PARK**

The report outlined information on the future use of Focus, Unit 5 Gallagher Retail Park, Pontypandy. A number of minor planning applications have been submitted by Tesco stores in order to reopen the unit as a retail food store.

In response to these applications there has been speculation that the Tesco store in the town centre will close.

Mr Highway (the Town Centre Development Manager) has recently contacted the Manager at the Caerphilly store and been an assurance that the store in the Town Centre will remain open.

The Management Group suggested however that clarification be sought from Tesco Headquarters on the future of the town centre store.

**8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Mr. Couzens reported that a pleasing footfall had been recorded on the evening of the Christmas lights 'switch on'.

A question was raised on seating facilities in the Castle Court Centre and if there were future plans for more seating.

Mr. Couzens responded that the centre is constantly reappraising the facilities for shoppers and have encouraged the Café's to provide additional seating outside their premises. Although seating can sometimes cause anti social behaviour in the shopping centres it would always be a consideration in future plans for the centre.

**9. INFORMATION ITEM**

The following item was reported for information:

**a) Caerphilly Town Centre Audit – November 2008**

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

**10. Grant Assistance – Working men's Hall (Page 4)**

The Vice-Chairman reported that he had met a representative of one of the trustees and discussed a funding avenue for them to explore although to date had not received any contact from him.

It was agreed that the matter should not be removed from the Town Centre Audit and a report on any progress to source funding for the renovation of the building be presented to the next meeting of the Management Group.

**11. Parking on Grass Verge – Nantgarw Road (Page 5)**

Reported that cars continue to park on the grass verge at Nantgarw Road. The local fishing shop has displayed notices to discourage fishermen parking there and the wooden bollards have seemed to work to a certain extent (there may be a need for 1 extra bollard).

Mr. Stephens (Cadw) indicated that other measures could be considered if appropriate and the Police representative indicated that he would monitor the situation at this area.

**12. Use of Former Indoor Market Site – Pentrebane Street (Page 9)**

Noted that it had been suggested that the former market site be re-opened on a temporary basis to encourage trade to Cardiff Road. It was agreed that officers investigate the feasibility of this and open a dialogue with local traders on their short-term aspirations for the site.

**13. Christmas Market – The Twyn/The Castle (Page 10)**

Concern was expressed that there will be an entry fee to the Castle on the weekend of the Christmas Market at Caerphilly (the normal tariff will apply and it was noted that the local resident entry scheme does not apply to special events).

Mr. Stephens indicated that he would however convey the concerns of the Group to Cadw and would also have discussions with officers on arrangements for future Christmas events.

**14. NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, 18th March 2009 at 2.00 p.m.

The meeting closed at 3.05 p.m.