



CAERPHILLY TOWN CENTRE MANAGEMENT GROUP

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT PENALLTA HOUSE, TREDOMEN PARK ON WEDNESDAY 17TH JUNE 2009 AT 2.00 PM

PRESENT:

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

Councillors:

C. Elsbury, S. Kent , M.H. Newman and Mrs L. Williams.
R.Davies – Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Countryside

Together with:

I. MacVicar (Business Development Officer), A. Highway (Town Centre Development Manager), B. Campbell (Senior Assistant Engineer), P. Hudson (Tourism Officer), J. Elliott (Research Officer) and D. Phillips (Partnership Support Officer)

Also Present:

E. Talbot (CIRP), J. Stephens (Cadw) and K. Williams (Clerk, Caerphilly Town Council).
J. Cooper (Caerphilly Access Group) and J. Couzens (Centre Manager – Castle Court).

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Mrs S. Cooper (Caerphilly Access Group) ,
A. Dallimore (Urban Renewal Manager) and S. Beacham (Senior Parks Officer).

WELCOME

The Chairman welcomed Councillor Elsbury to his first meeting of the Management Group.

1. MINUTES

RESOLVED that subject to the inclusion of Councillor M. Newman listed in the
apologies for absence, the following minutes be approved as a correct record.

Caerphilly Town Centre Management Management Group held on 18th March 2009.

MATTERS ARISING

2. Top of Town Development (minute no 3)

It was reported that the original scheme was now unlikely to proceed although the council would continue to pursue funding sources for the regeneration of the top of town.

3. Condition of Co Co's Building (minute no 4)

Members were informed that although the owner of the premises was reluctant to work with the council to improve the appearance of the building he has recently met with officers and is now willing to have hoardings on the ground floor of the premises to mask the window and shop signs. He has also agreed to look at quotes for putting a building wrap on the first floor to fully mask the intrusive nature of the building. Officers have obtained quotes from a company based at Cardiff and they will now need to speak to the owner directly.

Concern was again expressed at the general condition of the building although it was noted that it is regularly inspected by the Building Control section of the council.

It was also reported that there might be squatters in the rear of the building.

It was agreed that confirmation be sought on the condition and safety of the building and the owner be informed that squatters may be occupying his building.

4. Grant Assistance – Working men's Hall (minute no 7)

Following a Technical Assistant Grant for a full structural survey it was agreed that an updated report be presented to the next meeting.

5. Parking on Grass Verge – Nantgarw Road (Minute no 8)

It was suggested that Mr. Beacham (Senior Parks Officer) liaise with officers from Cadw to discuss the matter further and to identify any further means of preventing cars parking on the grass verge on Nantgarw Road.

6. Use of Indoor Market Site (Minute no 9)

Mr MacVicar reported that he had obtained approximate survey fees to establish the condition of the building. These were put at £12,000 and the cost of bringing the building back into use as an indoor market was out at £75,000.

It would be therefore not financially viable or prudent to spend such a large capital outlay on a privately owned building.

7. Evan James Memorial (minute no 10)

It was agreed by the Group that the proposal to use an old sycamore tree in Dafydd Williams Park to carve the Welsh National Anthem should be supported and Mr. Dallimore be requested to attempt to source funding from Caerphilly Town Council and the Area Forum Budget.

It was also suggested that alternative sources of fundraising be researched, in particular, with Menter liaith. Also fund raising events such as a 'battle' of the choir's at the Caerphilly Working Men's Hall.

8. Eisteddfod Arch (minute no 11)

It was indicated that the original drawing of the Arch had been sourced and also the question

of the official opening was raised.

9. Christmas Market (minute no 13)

Mr Stephens (Cadw) reported that he relayed the comments of the Group back to his organisation regarding their charging policy during the Christmas Market week-end. A decision on their charging policy will however be made nearer the date.

The council are working with the proposed contractor and the Highways Directorate to look at the road closure proposal.

10. PROPOSED LIFE TRAIL /WELL BEING UNITS

Members noted the report and agreed in principle to the provision of the Units – It was suggested that the Caerphilly Local Health Board or the council's Sport Development and Health Improvement Team be contacted to discuss if a financial contribution would be appropriate from them.

Mr. Williams (Caerphilly Town Council) also indicated that the request for funding for this project would be discussed at the next Town Council meeting.

11. PROPOSED TAXI RANK AT THE BANDSTAND

Mr. D. Mundy and Mr. C. Millar (Caerphilly Taxi Drivers' Association) attended the meeting for this item and to outline their reasons for requesting consideration of a taxi rank outside the bandstand at Castle Court.

They explained that there was a shortage of taxi ranks within the town centre of Caerphilly. There are at present 2 taxi ranks at the top of town but none near the Castle Court area where there are shops, clubs, the castle and now the re-located Post Office. The older generation make use of taxis to take them to the Post Office but are currently unable to disembark near the premises.

The proposal is therefore to build out half of the current bus bay to provide a wider footway outside the bandstand with a new raised, bus boarder on it. The remainder of the bay can then be marked to cater for 2 taxis between the hours of 8am and 6pm – Mondays to Friday.

There had been no initial objections to the present proposal from local members, the Police and the Caerphilly Access Group.

A concern was raised from the Manager of the Castle Court Centre that there is at present problems with cars parking in the bus bay and that this proposal may worsen the traffic situation especially if taxi's queue at this location. He suggested alternative spaces for taxi ranks near the Argos store.

Mr. Cooper ,Caerphilly Access Group reported that although his group objected to previous proposals they were in favour of this present proposal.

It was agreed by a show of hands that the majority of members of the Management Group supported the proposal for a daytime only, taxi rank on Castle Street in the town centre.

12. REQUEST FOR A PEDESTRIAN CROSSING AT CARDIFF ROAD

A request had been submitted from the Caerphilly Access Group that consideration be given

to installing a pedestrian crossing at Cardiff Road (near the junction of Stockland Street) as a pedestrian safety measure because a large number people tend to cross the road at this location. The location proposed has good visibility and the traffic is one way.

Mr Campbell indicated that he would arrange for an assessment to be held at the location as there are policies and procedures to follow when considering a new crossing. He would then report back with the findings to the Management Group.

13. REQUEST FOR TABLES AND CHAIRS OUTSIDE BEANO'S COFFEE SHOP, CARDIFF ROAD

Members discussed a request to put tables and chairs outside Beano's Coffee shop at Cardiff Road and it was agreed that the pavement at this area would be too narrow to accommodate this request and to leave enough room for pedestrian safety.

14. UPDATE ON FLOWER FESTIVAL

Arrangements for the 4th Annual Flower Festival are progressing well and this year 7 churches will be involved. A free open top bus will tour the town and the churches from 12 noon. A new feature will be a children's 'Go Wild' event.

15. INFORMATION ITEM

The following item was reported for information:

a) Caerphilly TCIG Audit – May 2009

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

Access Issues – Morrisons (Page 3) noted that one dropped kerb has still to be completed and an assurance has been given that this work will shortly be completed.

Plastic Bag Amnesty (Page 6) Reported that the Tesco site at Crossways has a plastic bag re-cycling facility but that the town centre store does not.

16. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Stephens circulated a brochure from Cadw which was produced to celebrate 25 years of conservation action in Wales.

Mr. Cooper also reported that the Caerphilly Access Group had worked in partnership with the local council for 20 years and hoped that the good working relationship would continue.

Finally a concern was raised at the lack of re-cycling bins throughout the town centre especially for cans.

17. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 16th September 2009 at 2.00 pm.

The meeting closed at 3.45 pm.