



CAERPHILLY TOWN CENTRE MANAGEMENT GROUP

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT PENALLTA HOUSE, TREDOMEN PARK ON THURSDAY 10TH JUNE 2010 AT 2.00PM

PRESENT:

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

Councillors:

C. Elsbury , S. Kent and M. Newman

R. Davies – Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Countryside

Together with:

J. Bennett (Group Manager – Advisory Services), A. Highway (Town Centre Development Manager), A. Dallimore (Team Leader – Urban Renewal), S. Beacham (Senior Parks Officer) J. Elliott (Research Officer) and D. Phillips (Partnership Support Officer).

Also Present:

Ms J. Arrowsmith (Cadw), Mrs S. Cooper and J. Cooper (Caerphilly Access Group)

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor M. Prew, E. Talbot (CIRP), K. Robottom (CRA), K. Williams (Clerk, Caerphilly Town Council) and Mr J. Couzens (Centre Manager, Castle Court).

1. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 4th March 2010 were received as a correct record.

MATTERS ARISING

2. Confirmation on Free Access to Caerphilly Castle (minute no 5)

The Chairman reported that a letter had been sent to Cadw following concerns that there should be free access for all visitors to the castle during the Medieval Market weekend. A reply from Cadw had indicated that this was not possible and only local resident passes would be accepted to gain free entry.

The representative from Cadw confirmed this current position and members considered that this two-tier charging system should however be re-considered. A lot of investment is made

by the authority in promoting the annual and successful Christmas Medieval Fayre, which aims to be a memorable experience for visitors to the town and members felt that Cadw should be supporting and contributing to this successful local event.

It was suggested that the Chairman arrange a meeting with Cadw and Alun Ffred Jones AM to discuss this matter further.

3. Malcolm Uphill Memorial (Minute No 6)

It was reported that a funding package needed to be confirmed in order to progress this further. A contribution has been agreed from Caerphilly Town Council.

4. Christmas Lights at Pentrebane Street (Minute no 7)

Noted that 2 new lamp posts had been erected at Pentrebane Street (financed by the Caerphilly Town Council) which will now be suitable for Christmas lights to be fixed to them.

5. CELEBRATION FOR THE FREEDOM OF THE BOROUGH

Mrs R. Mathews (Communications Manager) was attending the meeting to present this item. Mrs L. Barrett (Senior Administrator – Communications) was also present.

Mrs Mathews explained that the council had awarded the Freedom of the Borough to the Royal Welsh and as part of the celebrations the regiment will march through the towns of Caerphilly and Blackwood on Saturday 25th September. This year will also be the 50th anniversary of the twinning partnership between the Caerphilly County Borough and Ludwigsburg and it has been agreed that the celebrations for this event and the Freedom of the Borough event have an element of joining together and would therefore be appropriate to combine the two.

All the celebrations will take place on the week-end of the 25th/26th September and will include a number of commemorative events. On the morning of the 25th September at 9.30am the regiment will leave St Martins school and march through Caerphilly town with a formal saluting of the troops taking place in front of the Castle. They will then move onto Blackwood. The final formal event of the week-end will take place on Sunday afternoon at Penallta House Chamber when people will be able to speak about their long association and exchange tokens to mark the twinning anniversary. An exhibition of the last 50 years of twinning will be on display at the Winding House Museum for one month leading up to this event and any contributions (e.g. photographs) would be welcomed.

A number of temporary road closures are still to be finalised and further discussions will include local bus companies. A number of working group meetings have been held and it was confirmed that the local Police have been informed of the event. It was suggested that the Business Forum and local retailers should be kept informed of progress.

It is hoped that the event will be an opportunity to attract a large number of tourists to the town.

6. EXPERIMENTAL TRAFFIC ROAD ORDER AT PENTREBANE STREET

Mr Dallimore explained that the experimental traffic road order was to increase the width of the pavements to incorporate planters and accommodate tables and chairs in the street to make the area more welcoming and hopefully increase the footfall into Pentrebane Street. A number of improvements will be considered for the street including an artwork commission. The area will become known as 'The Quarter'.

7. NEW GATES AT MORGAN JONES PARK

Mr Beacham (Senior Parks Officer) reported that a rolling programme to replace pillars and gates at Morgan Jones was being progressed and that he would be looking for funding for the gates at the Nantgarw Road entrance from the Community Assets Programme. He confirmed that financial assistance from the Town Centre Area Forum Budget or Caerphilly Town Council was therefore no longer required.

8. UPDATE ON CAERPHILLY FLOWER FESTIVAL

Mr Highway circulated leaflets and outlined the arrangements for the Caerphilly Flower Festival on the 10th and 11th July. This year the festival will have a 1940's theme and a traditional 1940's allotment will take centre stage at the Twyn Car Park. There will be a free shuttle bus and numerous free events and activities for all the family.

9. REQUEST TO JOIN THE MANAGEMENT GROUP

It was reported that a request to join the Group had been received from a Caerphilly Town Councillor. The Terms of Reference for the three Town Centre Management Groups did not however give guidance on voting rights or additional membership. It was agreed therefore that officers discuss this further with the Head of Legal Services and clarify the situation. The request to join the Management Group would therefore be included on the agenda for the next meeting when further information would be available to enable a decision to be taken.

INFORMATION ITEMS

10. CAERPHILLY TCIG AUDIT – MAY 2010

The Caerphilly Town Centre Audit for May 2010 was received and noted.

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Vice-Chairman reported that a local resident had donated an Eisteddfod Award Plaque and it was suggested that it would be appropriate if this could be displayed near the Eisteddfod Arch. Mr Dallimore indicated that he would investigate the feasibility of this.

12. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 23rd September 2010 at 2.00pm

The meeting closed at 3.05pm