



CAERPHILLY TOWN CENTRE MANAGEMENT GROUP

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT PENALLTA HOUSE, TREDOMEN PARK
ON THURSDAY, 15TH SEPTEMBER 2011 AT 2.00 P.M.

PRESENT:

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

Councillors:

C. Elsbury and M. Newman
R. Davies – Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Planning

Also Present:

Mrs S. Cooper (Caerphilly Access Group), Mr K. Robottom (CRA) and Mr K. Williams (Clerk – Caerphilly Town Council), Mr E. Talbot (CIRP) and R. Gough (GAVO)

Together with:

J. Bennett (Group Manager – Advisory Services), C. Campbell (Transportation Engineering Manager), A. Highway (Town Centre Development Manager), P. Hudson (Senior Events & Marketing Officer), S. Wilcox (Assistant Town Centre Manager) and D. Phillips (Partnership Support Officer).

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors S. Kent and M. Prew and Mr. J. Couzens (Centre Manager, Castle Court).

1. MINUTES

Subject to the correction that Caerphilly Town Council had agreed to a donation of £300 for the Malcolm Uphill Memorial (minute no 4), the minutes of the Caerphilly Town Centre Management Group meeting held on 19th May 2011 were agreed as a correct record of the meeting.

MATTERS ARISING

2. Bus Stop Kerb/Taxi Rank – Castle Street (Minute No 6)

Mr Campbell reported that the work at Castle Street to provide a taxi rank would progress in the next few weeks. Although this Group had originally expressed concern at the work there had been no objection from the Access Group, Taxi Group and the council. The Castle Court Manager had however made strong objections to the work and urged the council to re-

consider.

The Group considered that the work would benefit the public and therefore agreed that it should proceed.

3. MALCOLM UPHILL MEMORIAL

It was reported that the fundraising group had successfully raised enough money to fund a Commemorative plaque for Malcolm Uphill and were now working with the urban renewal section of the council to progress this. The plaque would be sited at Station Square and Mr. Talbot indicated that fundraising would continue with any surplus donated to local charities.

4. NEW LIBRARY

An artist's impression and plans for the new library at the site of the old Post Office were shown to the Group. A planning application would be submitted shortly and if successful demolition of the old building will then be carried out. The lease negotiations for the building are at an advanced stage and if there are no delays it should be completed by early 2013. A member raised a concern that the site was in the centre of town and if demolished near the busy Christmas period care should be taken to make sure the area is made safe.

5. JD WETHERSPOONS PUBLIC HOUSE

It was noted that the public house would be named The Malcolm Uphill and is on schedule to open on the 11th October. The owners are working with the Local History Society to display local memorabilia which will include celebrating the achievements of Malcolm Uphill.

6. BIG CHEESE DEBRIEF

Mr Hudson gave a post report on the recent Big Cheese event. A paper was circulated giving statistical details from the day. The number of pitches, footfall numbers and web site hits were outlined and it was reported that Sean Wilson (Martin Platt) had created extra media coverage for the event with publicity articles appearing in Western Mail, South Wales Echo, the Argus and radio interviews on Radio Wales. Future work for the event will be to explore ways of getting more visitors to visit the town centre and work on the organisation of the park and ride facilities. A member asked if local food traders were given any preferential treatment at the event and Mr Hudson explained that local food traders are always given first opportunity to rent a pitch.

Thanks were recorded by the Group to all staff involved in the successful event.

7. BBC PROMS/TOUR OF BRITAIN

It was reported that over 3,000 tickets had been purchased for the BBC Proms event at Caerphilly. Unfortunately heavy rain on the evening prevented the event for going ahead as the torrential rain flooded the instruments and electrics on the stage. The BBC indicated however that they were pleased with the arrangements made to stage the event and it is hoped that it will return next year.

The Cycle Tour of Britain had been a very good event and gave excellent publicity to the county borough. The race organisers were very pleased with the arrangements made by the council and have indicated that there may be potential for a further event. There were over

1,200 school children watching the event.

8. FLOWER FESTIVAL FUNDING

Members noted the report seeking approval for funding from the Area Forum Budget towards next year's Caerphilly Flower Festival. It is proposed to stage the 2012 Caerphilly Flower Festival on Friday 25th May (preview day), Saturday 26th May and Sunday 27th May. The aim of the event will be to draw visitors from Cardiff and the surrounding area into the town centre.

Members of the Group supported the event which attracts hundreds of visitors to the town centre and its churches to view the floral displays and agreed the request for funding.

RESOLVED that £3,000 be allocated from the Community Forum Budget to the cost of staging the Caerphilly Flower Festival in 2012.

Thanks were recorded to Caerphilly Town Council for their sponsorship of this year's event.

9. AIR QUALITY UPDATE

The Chairman reported that the officer responsible was unable to attend and read a short report which he had received from her.

"At the moment, we are still gathering monitoring data to inform the Detailed Assessment report that will define the new boundaries of the extended Air Quality Management Area (AQMA). This work is likely to continue for approximately 6 months, until we have sufficient continuous monitoring data to inform the report. Once the appropriate data has been collected, a report will be produced along with a computer modelled map of the new AQMA. At this point in time, we will be in a position to write to those residents that are likely to be included within the new boundaries, alter the AQMA Order and recommence with the Steering Group meetings".

10. PROGRESS ON UTILITIES WORK IN THE TOWN CENTRE

Unfortunately the officer responsible was unable to attend and the Chairman indicated that should he receive any information on the work schedule it would be circulated to members of the Group.

11. CAERPHILLY BUSINESS AGAINST CRIME GROUP

It was reported that the Caerphilly Business Against Crime Group was set up four years ago. The local businesses and the Police share data and has made significant inroads into retail thefts. Another Group has recently been set up for the Blackwood Town Centre and information will be shared with them.

INFORMATION ITEM

12. CAERPHILLY TCIG AUDIT – JULY 2011

The Caerphilly Town Centre Audit for July 2011 was received and noted.

Matter Arising:-

13. Cleansing of Moat Bank – David Williams Park (Page 7) Any Other Business

A member reported that there had been late night drinking at this area although it is a designated alcohol free area. Mr Highway indicated that he would notify the Caerphilly Police Inspector of this concern.

14. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, 17th November 2011 at 2.00 p.m. (Sirhowy Room).

The meeting closed at 3.20 p.m.