



CAERPHILLY TOWN CENTRE MANAGEMENT GROUP

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT PENALLTA HOUSE ON TUESDAY 11TH FEBRUARY 2014 AT 1:30PM

PRESENT:

Councillors:

C. Forehead, J. Fussell, K. James, S. Kent, J. Pritchard

Together with:

Professor R Deacon (Community Councillor), Mrs M Hall (Community Councillor), Mr K Williams (Clerk Caerphilly Town Council), Mr J Dilworth (Clerk Van Community Council), Mr T Payne (Cadw), Mrs S Cooper (Caerphilly Access Group), Inspector G Jones (Gwent Police), Mr Peter Richards (Heol Trecastell Residents Association on behalf of Mr Tidridge), Mr T Jones (Tommy Cooper Society), Miss S Hall & Pupils (Bedwas Junior School)

Also:

A. Highway (Town Centre Development Manager), A. Dallimore (Team Leader – Urban Renewal & Conservation), S. Wilcox (Assistant Town Centre Manager), D. Smith (Principal Engineer), M. R. Davies (Senior Employment & Enterprise Officer), A. Jones (Clerk)

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillors: E. M. Aldworth, P. Bevan, D. T. Davies, C. Elsbury, E. Forehead, B. Jones, M. Prew, Mr J Couzens (Centre Manager Castle Court), Mr E Talbot (Federation of Small Businesses), Mr Tidridge (Heol Trecastell Residents Association), M. Godfrey (Environmental Health Officer), P. Hudson (Marketing & Events Manager).

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Pritchard declared an interest with item 6 on the agenda. He advised that he is involved with seeking funding to utilise the former library at Morgan Jones Park and is currently working with officers on this project.

3. TO NOTE THE PREVIOUS MINUTES ON 19TH NOVEMBER 2013

Mr Tudor Jones wanted it noted that on page 4 it states that he reported maintenance of the Tommy Cooper Statue was requested it should have read the Tommy Cooper walk of fame not the statue.

The rest of the minutes were taken as read.

4. BEDWAS JUNIOR SCHOOL TOMMY COOPER DVD

The Chairman introduced the pupils from Bedwas Junior School along with their teacher Miss Hall and one of the pupils father to the group. Also attending was the film producer's wife.

The three pupils introduced themselves and explained how they came up with the idea for the DVD and how they then met the film producer who developed the storyboard. They advised the group that they entered the dvd into a competition and won Best Animation Award.

The DVD was then played to the group. The Chairman thanked the pupils for bringing their dvd and their excellent presentation to the group. The group then left the meeting.

5. AIR QUALITY UPDATE

Mr Highway advised the group that Maria Godfrey sends her apologies for not being able to attend the meeting and presented the group with a written update on the air quality provided by Maria Godfrey.

6. MORGAN JONES FORMER LIBRARY UPDATE

Mr Dallimore confirmed that he has spoken to Mark James in the Council's Property Services department in relation to the current position on the former library. It was confirmed that no decision has been made at present as to what is going to happen with the building.

7. CHANGES TO DISABLED PARKING

Mr Smith passed apologies to the group for no officers being available from Traffic Management for the previous meeting where this item was raised previously. Mr Smith went on to confirm that there had been a number of changes in the town centre in May 2013 with regards to removal of some disabled parking bays amongst other parking issues.

After considering views expressed from a number of outside bodies a decision has been made to reinstate 5 disabled parking bays.

Mr Smith then passed around the group a plan of the town centre, which showed the location of the disabled parking bays. Three will be located outside Superdrug, one by Santander, and one opposite Shaw's.

The group were also advised that there are changes whereby the time allowed for limited waiting to be increased by removing the loading bays. Mr Smith also explained that blue badge users could park in these spaces and in resident only bays.

Councillor Kent asked if the recommendations would be going out for consultation again. Mr Smith confirmed that it would be going out for consultation whereby all concerned parties would be notified.

Councillor Pritchard confirmed that he deeply disagreed with the previous order and at the last Caerphilly Access Group meeting he saw the plans for the new changes, which he fully supports.

The Chair advised that this group is a consultation group and asked for members to vote on whether or not they support the recommendations. The vote was cast and results were 8 Supported the recommendations there were no objections.

8. MALCOLM UPHILL MEMORIAL MONIES CHARITY DONATION

The Chair read out the following statement from Mr Talbot Chair of The Malcolm Uphill Commemorative Committee.

“The Malcolm Uphill Commemorative Committee has now disposed of its obligation under its Constitution that any money left over from the project would be donated to a charity active in the Caerphilly area. We are pleased to announce that £525.00 has been Donated to Hearing Dogs for the Deaf. The charity train dogs to tell their owners when an alarm is sounding, door bell Etc. As Malcolm was Hard of Hearing, and a keen animal lover, we thought this would be a very fitting tribute to a remarkable man. There has been much debate over the £300.00 donated to the MUMC by CTC at a meeting of this committee it was commented on by 2 Councillors that the money should be returned, even though they had no authorisation from CTC do so. In any event the Committee felt that under the circumstances that the money should be returned. A cheque was presented to the Town Clerk Ken Williams for the £300.00 by our treasurer Richard Williams at a meeting of the Caerphilly Town Management group. This brings an end to a campaign where not only did we succeed in placing a bronze plaque at the top of town, in honour of Malcolm achievements, but were also instrumental in naming the J D Weatherperson Public house after Malcolm Uphill. In conjunction with the Caerphilly History Society the establishment has now become a tourist attraction with memorabilia supplied by the MUCM and CHS and has transformed the once dilapidated top of town eyesore known locally as the Co-Co Building.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their support during the project. Special thanks to Allan Dallimore and his team for the excellent Graphic designs, and erecting the Plaque on Station Square.

9. HEOL TRECASTELL PARKING AND EVENTS

Mr Highway passed apologies onto the group for Mr Hudson and a written report was provided. The group were advised that the report does refer to traffic impacts on streets and stated that Mr Hudson is happy to meet with groups to discuss any issues.

Mr Peter Richards passed on apologies from Mr Tidridge and advised he was present to represent the Heol Tre Castell Residents Association.

Mr Richards raised concerns for all events held within the area, as the residents perceive that there are issues with anti-social behaviour, parking and noise nuisance. The Chair confirmed that the group have already discussed these issues at length in previous meetings and will be taken on board with the events team and police to try and minimise disruption.

Mr Richards raised concern over parking problems outside Ysgol Y Castell. There continues to be issues where parents are parking on double yellow lines or parking on the road opposite the school and children are running onto the road. It was requested if parents use the car park at Crescent Road to park their vehicles this would help with the problem.

Mr Smith advised that parents have been informed that they can park in the Crescent Road car park where additional time is allowed for parents to park so that they can take their children to school safely. Whilst the offer to parents to use the car park is there the Council cannot force them to use it.

Inspector Jones confirmed that officers are focusing on this area and are issuing tickets to parents who park on double yellow lines and will continue to monitor the problem. There is also always a high presence of police at all events and will continue to keep on top of things.

Councillor Pritchard endorsed what Mr Richards has raised and confirmed that residents need to be consulted before the events and not afterwards. Councillor Fussell stated that it would be a good idea if the Residents Association came back to the next meeting with what they think would be appropriate for the events to have more input from residents.

The Chair stated that Councillor Ken James Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Planning & Sustainable Development has taken everything on board and will look into how matters will be dealt with in future.

10. ST DAVIDS EVENT

The report was presented to the group and moved.

Mr Payne from Cadw announced that on St David's Day entrance to the Castle would be free.

11. BUSINESS REPORT

Members were presented with the report and Mr Highway confirmed that Caerphilly is performing steadily in the current economic climate.

Councillor Pritchard questioned the statistics on footfall figures. Mr Highway advised that the cameras were unusable for 12 weeks therefore figures cannot be compared effectively.

The report was moved.

12. UNIQUE PLACES DISCOUNT CARD DEBRIEF

The report was presented to the group and Mr Highway advised that the main goal of the initiative was to raise the profile of town centre, which was achieved. However the feedback questionnaire showed that retailers reported low transactions of the number of persons using the card.

Councillor James stated that the results are slightly contradicting. There was nothing more that could be done to promote the card as all avenues of publicity were used. The results show that traders would be happy to participate in this offer next year. The scheme is still relatively new and retailers are taking time to get used to it so we need to give it a chance to work.

13. AUDIT

Inspector Jones informed the group that there have no reports of claims handlers on Cardiff Road since the Councils solicitors has written to them. Mr Highway passed on his thanks to the Inspector and his officers for monitoring the situation.

A potential location has been identified for the Community notice board in the Town Centre and further discussions are taking place.

Mr Dallimore confirmed that the repainting of fingerposts in the town centre has been delayed due to the weather, which has created a backlog.

Councillor Kent requested that the bin outside the library be replaced, as it is rusty. Mr Dallimore confirmed that this would be looked into in the next financial year.

The Chair raised concerns over the state of the bus station. Mr Highway requested that these concerns be forwarded to him and he will take the matter up with Huw Morgan in Engineers. It was agreed this item would also be added to the audit report.

Meeting closed 14:37

CHAIRMAN