



RISCA TOWN CENTRE MANAGEMENT GROUP

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT PENALLTA HOUSE, TREDOMEN PARK ON TUESDAY 18TH FEBRUARY 2014 AT 2:00PM

PRESENT:

Councillors:

D. T. Davies(Observer), N. George, P. Griffiths, K. James, P. Leonard, R. Passmore

Together with:

B. Hancock (Community Councillor), D. Hobbs (Community Councillor), Ms C Mortimer (Clerk Risca Town), Mr G James (Clerk Risca East), Inspector Muirhead (Gwent Police)

Also:

A. Highway (Town Centre Manager), S. Wilcox (Assistant Town Centre Manager),
A. Dallimore (Team Leader – Urban Renewal & Conservation), H. Lancaster (Senior
Communications Manager), A. Jones (Clerk)

1. APOLOGIES

Councillor D. Rees, M. Parker (Community Councillor), P. Hudson (Marketing & Events Manager), S. Pugh (Corporate Communications Manager)

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made.

3. MEDAL PRESENTATION

The Chair informed the group that this item was being dealt with early to enable Miss Lancaster to leave the meeting.

Miss Lancaster passed apologies for Mr Pugh. The group were presented with a route plan of the parade of soldiers, cadets and band, which is taking place on the 1st March 2014. The group were informed that they are expecting a good turn out based on the parades in other towns.

The group were advised that the parade is due to commence at 11:50 from Risca Primary School proceeding on to Tredegar Street and halt outside the park gates of Tredegar Park for 45 minutes whilst the ceremony takes places. The parade will continue to the war memorial entrance and then fall out.

There will be some disruption but it will be kept to a minimum, there is a diversion route, which was shown to the group.

Councillor Passmore asked for clarification as to how the event has been advertised. Miss Lancaster advised due to short timescale adverts were placed in the South Wales Argus, Campaign and posters and banners are being placed around the town. Letters have been sent to retailers advising them of the event.

Miss Lancaster then left the meeting.

4. TO NOTE THE MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING (26TH NOVEMBER 2014)

The previous minutes were taken as read.

5. UPDATE ON CONDITION OF LAND AROUND CUCKOO STATUE

Mr Dallimore confirmed that in the previous meeting he was asked to have the area cleaned up. Visuals of the area were shown to the group and Mr Dallimore confirmed that the area has been cleaned up. It has also been established that the owner does have the responsibility of maintaining the land as part of the s106 agreement.

Members expressed their concern over the visual impact at the site and asked if the refugia can be broken down and distributed around the site or moved away. Mr Dallimore advised that this would not be possible as the area is a unique environment and refugia has been placed there for reptile translocation to house slow worms.

Councillor Passmore requested confirmation as to why the statue could not be moved. Mr Dallimore advised that moving the statue would be extremely difficult and also the cost of moving the statue would have to be considered. It was requested that Mr Dallimore find out how much it would cost and report back.

The Chair asked if there was a possibility of fencing being placed to reduce the visual impact of the slowworm site. Mr Dallimore will take this request back to the planning department for discussions.

The Chair asked Mr Dallimore if the Council could send a team to the site to tidy up the area before a maintenance regime can be introduced by the owner. Mr Dallimore confirmed that this can only happen with the owner's approval and he will take this up with Officers.

6. UPDATE ON TOILET BLOCK MURALS

Mr Dallimore and Mr Wilcox have met with the artist Mr Craig Lewis and have requested that he produce a method statement. The fee has been agreed and works will commence early in the next financial year. Once the work starts it will take 4 weeks to be completed depending on weather conditions.

7. COMMERCIAL LANE WASTE COLLECTION

This report was not presented to the group due to an administrative error. It was agreed that this report would be placed on the agenda for the next meeting.

8. UNIQUE PLACES DISCOUNT CARD ANALYSIS REPORT

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 feedback questionnaire showed that retailers reported low transactions of the number of persons using the card throughout the five town centres.

Councillor Passmore asked how useful is the scheme to the town. Mr Highway stated that more retailers really need to be on board to enable to scheme to work well. Unfortunately the take up of this offer with retailers in Risca was quite poor.

The Chair stated that perhaps the group should try to promote this scheme more and earlier. Mr Hancock informed the group that he did call around to a number of the retailers to try and encourage them to sign up to the promotion but unfortunately he did feel as if he was wasting his time. Mr Highway thanked Mr Hancock for his assistance.

Councillor Leonard suggested that possibly businesses may benefit from attending a presentation on the scheme and shown how the offers could work and benefit their businesses. Mr Highway confirmed that he would be looking into how this scheme could work in future and possibly try something different.

9. NEW SIGNAGE

Mr Dallimore showed the group visuals and described how the new signs will fall in with the same fit out as those in the park and those at the north end of the canal.

10. ST DAVIDS DAY EVENT

Mr Highway passed on Mr Hudson's apologies. The report was presented to the group and Mr Highway ran through the schedule of events.

The group were advised that there is a Town Centre Action plan to guide regeneration in the town centres. Bargoed and Caerphilly have been completed and Risca is next to be produced. There will be a public consultation at the library from the 28th February to 8th March 2014. An officer will be present on the 4th, 6th and 8th March to answer questions on area of concern.

11. AUDIT

Mr Dallimore informed the group that there is no update with the footbridge rear of Lidal as they are still working through details.

Inspector Muirhead advised that the scrap car storage issue in Commercial Lane has improved and vehicles have been seized. Officers will continue to patrol the area and any illegal parking will be dealt with.

Ms Mortimer raised concern over chewing gum on Tredegar Street. Mr Dallimore confirmed that he can arrange for the area to be cleansed and this item will also be placed on the audit

The Chair requested that the seating area north of Tredegar Street needs to be cleaned and have weeds removed. Mr Dallimore will discuss this with the relevant officer

It was requested that a report be prepared regarding fly tipping in Commercial Lane to be presented by officers at the next meeting.

Concern was raised over the paving slabs moving in Commercial Street. This will be reported to Highways and placed on the audit.

Meeting Closed: 15:03

CHAIRMAN