



## Risca Town Centre

Project = Risca Events Space

### Background:

The Council wished to utilise the urban park within Risca, known as Tredegar Grounds, to create a space where a variety of festivals, events and activities that offer a taste of the character, culture and heritage of the area can be held.

### The Site:

The site under consideration is town centre-park adjacent to the main shopping street (B4591). The park known as Tredegar Grounds was given to the inhabitants of Risca by Lord Tredegar to commemorate the diamond Jubilee of Queen Victoria in 1897.

The park mainly consists of grassed areas divided by a tarmac footpath, which traverse through the centre. At its centre a circular paved seating area is located which incorporates a small statue. There are tarmac footpaths around the edge of the park along with a number of established trees. To the northwest a toilet block and small children's play area is located.

The area to the north west of the Park was considered suitable for an events space.

Existing situation prior to enhancement works - A bus stop servicing 5 routes, with a 4 bay shelter in less than perfect condition is set at the back edge of the footway in a red, herringbone pattern brick pavement. Beyond this is a single storey, white-rendered, flat-roofed toilet block. There is ramped access to the disabled toilet and a stepped access to the Ladies and Gents located at opposite ends of the building. A grass strip and bow-top railings separates the toilet area from a modern and well-used toddlers' play area. Access from this play area to the Ladies toilet is somewhat convoluted and less than ideal for parents (mostly female) and their pushchairs/prams/buggies.



### Brief Scope of Works:

- It was envisaged that the site needs to accommodate up to 10 small to medium market-type stalls plus the Council's promotional trailer.
- The site needed to accommodate for a range of events, which may include Farmers' markets; children's entertainments; limited food retail associated with festivals such as Halloween and Christmas; craft stalls; Council promotions.
- Consideration was given to; Appropriate electric hook up, access to the existing toilet block, bus shelter, children's play area, floorscape, surface treatments such as

glass/aggregate resins and grass reinforcement, street furniture (bins/bollard/railings), drainage and associated soft works (replacement trees, bushes etc)

- Ideas for the site were developed in consultation with appropriate CCBC officers, ward members, local community and other interested parties.
- Accessibility issues were also considered in accordance with current Building Regulations and agreed with Caerphilly County Borough Council's Local Access Group.



Click on the embedded document to review the designs for the site

### **Contractor Procurement:**

A formal procurement process was undertaken, as per Band B of the Council's Standing Orders for Contracts. 5 landscaping contractor companies were approached all of whom were on the Construction Line database.

Following the Tender review process the lowest tender received, submitted by Afan Landscapes Ltd was viewed to be realistically priced and it was recommended that this be accepted. Therefore Afan Landscapes Ltd were formally appointed to undertake the enhancement works, May 2012.

### **Stag Head Totems:**

An additional component of the Events space has been the inclusion of artistic stag head totems. A separate procurement process, in line with CCBC Standing Orders was undertaken and Taylor Engineering Services were appointed December 2012, to fabricate and install the totems. Image of the ongoing fabrication process is shown adjacent and this element of the scheme is due to be completed after Easter 2013.



### **Funding / Costs:**

Various CCBC departments have funded the project and the cost of the project elements are shown below:

- Landscaping Contract Works - £60,000 (Afan Landscapes)
- Artistic Totems - £23,000 (Taylor Engineering Services)
- Associated Fees - £18,000 (Design, Engineering, Structural, Site Supervision)

Project Total - £101,000