



RISCA TOWN CENTRE MANAGEMENT GROUP

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT THE BUSINESS TECHNOLOGY CENTRE, TREDOMEN PARK ON WEDNESDAY 27TH MARCH 2013 AT 2.00 P.M.

PRESENT:

Councillors:

N. George, P. Griffiths, K. James, D. Rees

Together with:

Mr. M. Parker (Community Councillor - Risca West), Mr. W. Price (Community Councillor - Risca West), D. Hobbs (Community Councillor - Risca East), C. Edwards (Community Councillor - Risca East), Ms. C. Mortimer (Acting Clerk - Risca West), Mr. G. James (Acting Clerk - Risca East)

Also:

A. Highway (Town Centre Development Manager), S. Wilcox (Assistant Town Centre Manager), A. Dallimore (Team Leader - Urban Renewal & Conservation), A. Jones (Complaints Officer), P. Hudson (Marketing & Events Manager)

1. APOLOGIES

Councillor Mrs. E. Aldworth and Jan Bennett.

2. TO NOTE PREVIOUS MINUTES (24TH OCTOBER 2012)

The previous minutes were taken as read.

3. MINUTE SILENCE FOR COUNCILLOR STAN JENKINS

A minute silence was observed in memory of Councillor Stan Jenkins.

4. UPDATE ON THE CUCKOO STATUE

Allan Dallimore presented the group with visual displays of the current artwork in progress. Community Councillor M. Parker asked what the reason for the delay was. Allan Dallimore confirmed that there have been issues with the mechanics of the cuckoo that sits on the top of the artwork. The artist is currently rectifying the problem.

Installation is scheduled for over the Easter period.

5. SKATEBOARDING PROBLEM

Allan Dallimore confirmed that officers have been on site and have not witnessed any problems with skateboarding and therefore it has been decided to continue monitoring the situation.

6. CYCLE RACK

Allan Dallimore advised that a site visit has been carried out and a location for the, cycle rack has been identified by the One Stop Shop

NCS will be carrying out the work in their programmed schedule of works this financial year.

Community Councillor W. Price (Risca West) raised a query regarding cigarette ends being discarded all around the seating area and asked if signs or bins could be placed to resolve this problem. It was agreed that the issue was added to the audit.

7. ST. DAVID'S DAY EVENT

Paul Hudson read through his report and confirmed that the event was very successful.

There was a query over the accuracy of the footfall figures and how the information is gathered. Andrew Highway advised the group on the methodology used. The footfall camera, positioned outside the cinema, detects movement of passers as they enter an electronic grid on the pavement below the camera. The data is processed centrally by Footfall and given as a weekly report to Town Centre Management who in turn provides figures to retailers and local members.

It was clarified that the camera records data of pedestrian movement and does not take pictures. Andrew confirmed that the footfall figures are useful data to benchmark the town's performance.

Cllr. Dave Rees queried the possibility of an action plan being developed for Risca specifically to address what shops are brought into the town centre. He asked that this research take into account the views of the people of Risca in a consultation process. Andrew Highway advised this would need to go on the next agenda for the next Town Centre Management Group meeting.

There was also a request by Cllr. Dave Rees for a regular market to be brought in to boost the trade within the town. Andrew Highway advised the group that at present the Council are conducting a six-month pilot markets project in Bargoed town centre that will need to be evaluated before other towns are considered.

8. EVENTS SITE COSTINGS

Allan Dallimore read through his report on costings.

9. MURAL PAINTING

Finalised photographs were presented to the group of the mural paintings on the toilet block in Pontymister.

Cllr. Phyllis Griffiths explained that queries had been raised as to why the block had been painted as it was an empty building and it seemed to be a waste of money. The Group were

advised that it would have cost a lot to have demolished the block and that this mural improved the look of the building instead.

There has been a considerable amount of talk about this mural by members of the public and the group felt that it would have been better if the public were made aware of the reasons behind the works being done prior to commencement of the painting. If notice had been given there would have been more understanding and acceptance.

Discussions moved then to the toilet block in Tredegar Park and an idea to paint a mural on it. Allan Dallimore advised the group that the costs would be approximately £2,000 for all four walls to be painted. It was agreed that it would be a good idea and that the public should be consulted and advised. Allan Dallimore confirmed that they would work with local people to design the mural and get them involved.

This was put to a vote and the votes were 8 in favour and none against

10. RISCA TOWN CENTRE AUDIT – MARCH 2013

The zebra crossing at Tredegar Street was discussed and officers explained that there is currently no funding available for the installation of the crossing. The Cabinet Member, Cllr. Ken James, advised that this item could be closed on the audit but that if funding became available in the future it could be revisited.

Parking in the town centre. Cllr. Dave Rees raised a concern reference parking outside of the pet shop where vehicles are loading on double yellow lines and that there needs to be clarification from the Police and the Council as to whether or not delivery vehicles can park on the double yellow lines. The issue will go on to the audit and Town Centre Management will liaise with the business and the Police

New footbridge to the rear of Lidl. The group were advised that Tesco's contractor has unearthed a culvert and further redesign work is required. Allan Dallimore is chasing the contractors for timescales.

Risca Discover more sign has been delayed due to lack of funding but Andrew Highway and Allan Dallimore will look further into this.

Centenary event at the Palace Cinema. Two events have been scheduled - one in the summer and one at Christmas. The event in the summer will be of famous forties theme.

A request for weeds to be cleared from the seating area by Risca Pine Centre was made by Cllr. Phyllis Griffiths. The issue will go on to the audit.

The meeting closed at 3.25 p.m.

CHAIRMAN