



CAERPHILLY TOWN CENTRE MANAGEMENT GROUP

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT PENALLTA HOUSE ON TUESDAY 9TH JUNE 2015 AT 2:00PM

PRESENT:

Councillors:

P.J. Bevan, C. Forehead, J. Fussell, K. James, J. Pritchard

Together with:

Mrs M Hall (Town Councillor), Mr K Williams (Clerk Caerphilly Town Council), Mrs S Cooper (Caerphilly Access Group), Mrs T Undrey, Mrs D Hale, Mrs S Lawrence, (Caerphilly Retailers Association), Mr T Jones (Tommy Cooper Society)

Also:

A. Highway (Town Centre Development Manager), S. Wilcox (Assistant Town Centre Manager), A. Dallimore (Team Leader - Urban Renewal), R. Lloyd (Special Projects Officer), K. Dowdall (Senior Engineer), A. Jones (Clerk)

1. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR

Mr Highway opened the meeting and asked members for nominations for Chair.

Councillor Forehead was nominated, and 3 members voted in favour. Councillor Forehead accepted the post.

2. APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIR

Councillor Forehead requested nominations for Vice Chair.

Councillor James Pritchard was nominated, and 5 members voted in favour. Councillor Pritchard accepted the post.

3. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillors: C. Elsbury, E. Forehead, B. Jones, S. Kent, M. Prew, J. Pritchard.
Mrs J. Hibbert, Professor R Deacon, Mr J Dilworth (Clerk Van Community), Mr K Robottom (Caerphilly Residents Association), Mrs M Godfrey (Environmental Health Officer)

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made.

5. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING (3RD JUNE 2014)

Members requested clarification on the figure recorded in relation to the cost of the Skate Park.

6. AIR QUALITY UPDATE

Ms. Godfrey sent her apologies and provided Mr Highway with the following update that was circulated to the group:

Since the last meeting, not very much has progressed as we are still awaiting the modelling results of the basket of short-term measures from Parsons Brinkerhoff.

I mentioned to the group last time that the basket of short term modelling options was currently with Parsons Brinkerhoff and there had been some hold ups with this work due to the Caerphilly traffic model information being required to input in to the air quality model information being required to input into the air quality model. This is still the case – it is likely that this work will take at least another 6 weeks to complete. When the conclusions of this modelling work are known, I will discuss potential options with our colleagues in Highways and provide an update to the Caerphilly Air Quality Steering Group.

The soft measures within the Action Plan continue to progress, national standards cycling is being delivered within schools, a programme of pollution talks to school children in Caerphilly will commence in September 2015 and further air quality modelling will be undertaken specifically centred around emissions from buses in Caerphilly over the coming year also.

If there are any questions please contact Maria via email.

7. UPDATE ON SKATEBOARD PARK

Mr Lloyd advised the group that since the previous meeting members have provided suggestions of possible locations and thanked members for their input. No decision has been made yet as to the best location.

Councillor Pritchard stated that Morgan Jones would be the ideal location for the town.

Mr Lloyd informed the group that the skate park in Aberbargoed is now complete and advised that possibly a site visit would help members to see the skate park at first hand. Members agreed that this was a good idea.

Councillor Bevan expressed concern over the park being too close to residents so this would need further discussions.

Mr Lloyd advised that further discussions would be taking place and he will bring this item back to the next meeting.

8. CEDAR TREE ROUNDABOUT DISRUPTION WORKS UPDATE

Ms Dowdall introduced herself to the group as Senior Engineer for the Council.

Ms Dowdall presented a PowerPoint presentation to the group on the proposed works to the Pwll-y-pant roundabout and passed around plans showing the extent of the works to be undertaken. The group were advised that these plans were not the final plans as these could still be revised prior to the tender submission.

The group was advised that the process of clearing trees has already been undertaken; the next works will involve full construction of the carriageway.

Funding for the scheme will come from Section 106 money and additional funding has been applied for from a Welsh Government grant. The next step is for the work to go out to tender. The group were advised that the Council has held briefing sessions for the public, details were given to businesses in the Town Centre Gazette and plans have been made available on the Council's website as well as letter drops to residents and businesses. In addition the successful contractor will also need to send out letters as part of their contract conditions.

Ms Dowdall advised the group that the work will cause disruption, but an awareness raising campaign has been running for some time and a dedicated website has recently come online. However the group were advised that Welsh Government has also approved works in neighbouring authorities that will be carried out at the same time, which could have further impacts on the disruption. These works will be in Abercynon to Nelson road and Junction 28 off the M4 and the Basseleg Roundabouts.

Members requested clarification as to whether these works could be re-scheduled; Ms Dowdall advised that Local Authorities have to spend their funds within the same period as CCBC, so she did not believe this was possible.

Ms Dowdall was thanked for her presentation.

9. VELETHON UPDATE

Mr Hudson informed the group that this event has been organised by the Welsh Government and the organisers are *Lagadare*. The Council has signed up to a 4-year programme for this event.

The event will involve five different Local Authorities (Cardiff, Caerphilly, Newport, Monmouth and Torfaen) and will start and finish in Cardiff. There will be 15,000 cyclists with 200 elite riders.

Consultation for the event took place and Cabinet endorsed the road closures and the traffic management plan.

The organisers have sent letters to people affected on the routes over the last 5 to 7 days. Since the route has been agreed the Council has tried to minimise the possibility of residents being 'land locked'. Where possible this has been achieved but some places it has not been possible.

Councillor Pritchard informed the group that a lot of people did not know that the event was coming to the borough as not all places receive *The Campaign* newspaper.

Mr Hudson advised that it is always difficult to communicate the message to all residents, but; to the best of his knowledge, Caerphilly Council has been the only authority to consult with residents. Advertisements were also placed in the *Western Mail*, which was paid for by the organisers.

Discussions took place on how lessons will be learned from this event. All feedback will be passed to the organisers for next year's event to see how it can be improved for the future.

Members expressed concerns as to how emergencies will be dealt with. Mr Hudson advised that the organisers have guaranteed to get emergency calls through road closures and access for carers.

10. PARK LANE UPDATE

Mr Dallimore advised the group that the buildings have been demolished and fencing has been placed around the site. The area will stay like this for the time being.

Work is underway to look at proposals for the site which could compliment the local tourism offer.

There will be a dialogue with organisations including the Council's Park Services on the proposals.

Reports will be brought back to the group in future.

11. WORKING MENS HALL UPDATE

The group were advised that Ms Warrington was invited to the meeting but no response had been received.

Mr Dallimore advised that he left his card with Ms Warrington as he offered to provide some assistance with further quotes for the work. He has not received any communications to date but will make contact again.

12. TESCO UPDATE

Mr Highway read out the following statement that will go in the press today;

Boost for Caerphilly Town Centre

A major national sports retailer is to open its doors in Caerphilly town centre this August in a prime location overlooking Caerphilly Castle.

Caerphilly county borough council can confirm that the former Tesco store on Cardiff Road has been let to Sports Direct, one of the UK's leading sports retailers.

Work to adapt the store for this prestigious new tenant will begin in mid-July with an opening scheduled for August.

Cllr Ken James, Caerphilly's Cabinet Member for Regeneration welcomed the announcement, "This is fantastic news for Caerphilly and it is great to hear that this key site will be brought back into use again after becoming vacant earlier this year. Sports Direct will bring a range of full and part time jobs in the town and we now look forward to welcoming the team to Caerphilly."

"I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Tesco for their help and involvement in this process over the last few months," he added.

Members agreed that this was good news for the town.

13. CHOOSE THE HIGH STREET PAST & PRESENT UPDATE

Mr Highway presented a PowerPoint presentation to the group on the progress of the "Choose the High Street Past & Present Campaign."

Members were advised that Mr Wilcox has been working with the local schools to participate in the artwork displays. The group were advised that The Twyn Primary School has expressed an interest.

The 'street galleries' have been well received, since the photo boards were displayed in local shop windows people have expressed an interest in purchasing them.

The photos in the street galleries are available on the CCBC website Flickr Page and exhibitions will take place in libraries in each town. Caerphilly's exhibition will be in August.

Mr Highway thanked Mr Wilcox for all of his hard work.

Cotton bags have been handed out in libraries to promote the campaign and a competition to win shopping vouchers has been launched.

Members from the Caerphilly Town Retailers Association raised concern over why there were no flowers at the top end of the town. Previously, visitors always commented on how lovely the street looked but this year there are no displays. They would have contributed to the cost of flowers if asked.

Councillor Pritchard asked if there was any reason why there were no flowers at the top of town.

Councillor Fussell advised that he has spoken to Simon Beacham in Parks and mentioned that there are a number of troughs behind the Twyn Community Centre that cannot be seen from where they have been positioned. Councillor Fussell has made enquiries to see if these could be relocated to the top of the town and will speak with Derek Price.

The Chair thanked Mr Highway for the presentation.

Mr Tudor Jones from the Tommy Cooper Society introduced himself to the group and advised that it was the 30th Anniversary last year of the Tommy Cooper's death and the launching of the Tommy's Ticker Campaign.

The group were advised that 2 defibrillators were installed, 1 in the library and 1 in the Tourist Information Centre. The society has decided to install a further two defibrillators, 1 in Blackwood Miners' Institute and 1 in Caerphilly Working Men's Hall.

There will be an event to launch this on Thursday 11th June at 11 o'clock at the statute, where the press have been invited along with the cast of the Tommy Cooper Show who are currently appearing in the Blackwood Miners' institute.

Mr Jones invited all members of the group where they would be able to see one of the defibrillator machines.

The Chair thanked Mr Jones.

14. CAERPHILLY TOWN CENTRE AUDIT – APRIL 2015

A location for the Community Notice Board is still being looked at.

There were no further matters raised on the audit.

The meeting closed at 15:46 pm

CHAIR