



TOWN CENTRE MANAGEMENT GROUP

MINUTES OF THE RISCA TOWN CENTRE MANAGEMENT GROUP MEETING HELD AT PENALLTA HOUSE, YSTRAD MYNACH

ON TUESDAY 13TH MARCH 2018 AT 2:00PM

PRESENT:

Councillors:

N George, R Whiting

Together with:

Mr R Campbell (Clerk Risca Town Council)

Also:

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

1. TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors – D T Davies, A Leonard, P Leonard, S Morgan, B Owen, Tow Councillors J Parsons & B Hancock.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made at the beginning or during the course of the meeting.

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING 17TH OCTOBER 2017

The minutes were taken as read

4. UPDATE ON MATTERS RELATING TO TOWN

Mr Highway introduced the report which provided an update on matters relating to Risca town centre

Members were referred to update 1 in the report relating to Business Report. Mr Highway presented the update. Mr Highway advised the group that Councillor Owen has requested that the banners be removed as they advertise Caerphilly, not Risca town centre. Mr Dallimore asked if the group supported this.

The Chair asked if there would be savings if banners were to be removed. Mr Highway advised that the banners have already been bought so no savings would be made.

Councillor George advised that this would need to be referred back to Regeneration Scrutiny Committee for further consultation. Mr Highway confirmed that he would discuss the matter with local businesses to get their views and Mr Campbell confirmed he would raise this with the Town Council.

Members were referred to update 2 in the report relating to 'Choose the High Street' Christmas Voucher Booklet. Mr Highway presented the update and highlighted that 96% of feedback survey is positive. The group were advised that if the scheme was to run again consideration would be given to wider marketing. Mr Dallimore asked Mr Campbell to take this back to Town Council for discussions too.

Members were referred to update 3 in the report relating to Section 106 monies. Mr Dallimore presented the update and advised that the March deadline had been extended and that he has met with officers in Parks & Property.

Tesco have agreed that monies are to be used on demolition. The Chair asked if the monies could be used on other sites. Mr Dallimore advised that prioritising of demolition has to be adhered to and if monies were left over then it could be spent on other environmental projects within the Town Centre Action Plan that have already been identified.

Mr Dallimore confirmed that this would be brought to the attention of both Councillors and the Town Council.

Mr Campbell asked if Mr Dallimore could chase Property Services on the request for the Town Council to use the former caretakers building at Brooklands. The Town Council wrote to the Council but has not heard anything. Mr Dallimore confirmed he will raise this with colleagues. Members were referred to update 4 in the report relating to Monmouthshire and Brecon Adventure triangle. Mr Dallimore presented the update and advised that a large bid has been made for European money, a number of projects at Cwmcarn Scenic Drive have been submitted and the Council are waiting for Welsh Government to funding for the programme.

Improvements are planned for the car park, improvement of the pond area and an adventure playground. The group were advised that money has been set aside to match fund purchasing additional 'glamping pods'.

Mr Hudson confirmed that the Council is looking to encourage people to stay for longer. Mr Hudson is will meet with NRW to discuss exploring joint opportunities to work closer.

The group discussed cycle tracks and agreed that the site should be looked at to see what is needed. Mr Dallimore confirmed that £120,000 had been provided to improve the existing trails; however this is in the control of NRW. Mr Dallimore advised that Council have offered to carry out inspection and is waiting for NRW to reply.

Members were referred to update 5 in the report relating to Civil Parking Enforcement. Mr Highway advised that the issue of parking has been raised in all of the Town Centre Management Group Meetings and parking enforcement remains with the police at present.

The group discussed the Council taking Civil Parking Enforcement over and Councillor Morgan confirmed that a stage 1 report had been written and Cabinet had made a decision for the Council to use its Community Safety Wardens to carry out some parking enforcement duties.

Councillor Morgan confirmed that when he receives further information he will update the group at future meetings.

Members were referred to update 6 in the report relating to Cardiff Capital Region. Councillor Morgan presented the update and the group were advised that this would be good for the Borough as a whole and will create jobs and investment. As further information arises it will be passed on to the group.

5. RISCA TOWN CENTRE AUDIT

Mr Highway presented the audit and the following items were raised

Land around Cuckoo artwork - Mr Dallimore confirmed the area has been cleaned but needs a litter pick which will take place soon.

Illegal signage positioned on entrance to The Pontymister Industrial Estate -The Chair advised that this new signage is very bright. Mr Wilcox confirmed that he will take a look and check with Planning Enforcement.

Mr Hudson advised the group that he is looking at applications for the Summer Events. It was changed last year and organised on an arena in the park, this can accommodate different acts and will continue to build on success of last year's events.

The event will take place on the 7th July, which is a week earlier than last year.

Mr Campbell advised that there is a festive lighting unit and brackets for the baskets have gone missing and asked if officers can assist to try and locate the items.

Mr Wilcox confirmed that enquiries have been made but will ask again.

There were no further issues raised

The meeting closed at 14:57pm

CHAIR