



RISCA TOWN CENTRE MANAGEMENT GROUP

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT PENALLTA HOUSE, TREDOMEN PARK ON TUESDAY, 31ST MARCH 2015 AT 2.00 P.M.

PRESENT:

Councillors:

N. George

Together with:

C. Edwards (Risca East), H. Dyer (Risca Town Council), Mr R Campbell (Clerk Risca Town Council), Insp C Williams (Gwent Police)

Also:

A. Highway (Town Centre Manager), A. Dallimore (Team Leader – Urban Renewal and Conservation), S. Wilcox (Assistant Town Centre Manager), A. Jones (Clerk)

1. TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillors : E. Aldworth (Consultee), D. T Davies (Consultee), P. Griffiths, K. James, P. Leonard, R. Passmore, M. Parker (Risca Town), B. Hancock (Risca Town), Mr G James (Clerk Risca East), Inspector Muirhead (Gwent Police)

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

3. TO RECEIVE AND NOTE PREVIOUS MINUTES OF MEETING 11TH NOVEMBER 2014

Previous minutes noted.

4. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR

This item was deferred to the next meeting as there were insufficient members to elect the Chair. Councillor George as existing chair was asked to proceed with the meeting.

5. APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIR

This item was deferred to the next meeting as there were insufficient members to elect the Vice Chair.

6. CHOOSE THE HIGH STREET @ CHRISTMAS – ANALYSIS REPORT

Mr Highway presented the report to the group and discussed how the voucher scheme was a success for both retailers and the public.

The group were advised that throughout the five towns 90 offers were made and hopefully this will increase in future. Looking through the survey carried out, 91% of retailers stated that they would consider taking part in a future scheme.

From the feedback provided by the public, it is apparent that the key to a retailer's voucher being used was in the strength of the offer. Members were advised of comments listed in the appendix of the report.

Mr Highway and Mr Wilcox were thanked for the report and all their hard work.

7. CHOOSE THE HIGH STREET – PAST & PRESENT

Mr Highway presented the report to the group and advised that this new initiative aims to re-connect people with their local town centre.

This new scheme was discussed with the group and members were asked if they had any old photographs, which could be used in a library exhibition.

The initiative will include an exhibition of archive photos held at the library in each town centre, as part of this there will be a competition where people will have the opportunity to win two £50 "Love to Shopping" vouchers. On the entry form people will be asked to complete the sentence – "I choose the high street because..." It is hoped to use some of these sentences in the future to further promote the town centres.

Mr Highway advised the group that there are not many photographs of Risca and would really appreciate any help in acquiring more photographs.

Mrs Hazel Dupree introduced herself to the group and advised that she is involved in decorating shop windows and will arrange for signs to go up in the shop to ask for people to come forward with any old photographs of the town.

Mrs Dupree advised that Morison's have some old photographs on display so it may be worth contacting them.

Councillor Edwards advised that the South Wales Argus run an article on past & present so they should have some old photographs.

8. UPDATE ON THE CUCKOO STATUE

Mr Dallimore advised that the land around the cuckoo statue is difficult to maintain. There is currently a dialogue with Keep Wales Tidy with regards to carrying out the works and funding for the project. At present designs are being drawn up in addition a litter pick will involve local schools and Tesco staff

There will be a litter pick carried out in on the 16th April and later between April and May works will be undertaken in relation to the hedges and the habitat for slow worms. It is anticipated these will be done by the end of May.

The Chair asked if the back fence line could be looked at to tidy up. Mr Dallimore advised that he would make arrangements for it to be looked at.

9. RISCA TOWN CENTRE AUDIT – FEBRUARY 2015

Mr Highway presented the report to group and advised how the items get listed on the agenda.

Mr Dallimore advised that with regard to the new footbridge rear of Lidl there has been very little progress and legal issues are still being discussed.

Mr Highway confirmed that the issue of banners alongside the Highway is being monitored and photos of the banners have been provided to planning department. It is difficult to remove them if on private land.

Mr Dallimore advised that the condition of toilet block mural is a concern but unfortunately there is no budget at present.

Mr Highway brought to the groups attention a tree that has blown over in the park and blocking the path. This matter is being discussed with officers in parks.

There were no further issues on the agenda.

The meeting closed at 2.45 p.m.

CHAIR