

# **MOLD TOWN COUNCIL**

Minutes of the Special Meeting of Mold Town Council held at the Town Hall on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> October 2008.

## **PRESENT:**

Councillors: Andrea Mearns (Mayor), Chris Bithell, Tony Cattermoul, Carolyn Cattermoul, Geoff Collett, Ken Corbett, Geoff Darkins, Ray Dodd, Bryan Grew, Stephanie Hulley, Joyce Jones, Tim Maunders and Ken Williams with the Clerk and Finance Officer and Town Centre Manager.

## **APOLOGIES:**

Councillors: Carol Heycocks and Sheila Powell

## **70. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest expressed.

## **71. FLINTSHIRE TOWN CENTRE HEALTHCHECKS STUDY**

The Council considered the previously circulated Executive Summary of Study Findings, Flintshire Town Centre Healthcheck Study and that part of the report relating specifically to Mold Town centre.

Members welcomed the decision of Flintshire County Council's Executive to use the Study as a baseline document to help inform the development of Town Action Plans and the basis of future funding bids. Members recalled that a meeting is scheduled for 17<sup>th</sup> October 2008 for the presentation of the Study.

The Council highlighted a number of issues, some of which were detailed within the Study Report, that Members felt needed to be considered as part of the approach to the development of a town action plan. These included:

- Developing the 'distinctiveness' of Mold, to include the Cittaslow branding;
- Look for the introduction of 'niche' retailers;
- Investigating the opportunities to enhance and develop the street and indoor markets, including the development of other market opportunities (e.g.: craft market);
- Investigating the development of Daniel Owen Square to optimise its use for further markets, events and entertainment, and to make it a quality 'living' space in the town centre
- Improvement of the street scene, street cleansing and litter removal;
- The need to define the town centre boundary to ensure avoidance of developments on the edge or out of town;
- Investigating the development of the telephone exchange building, Chester Street and its site;
- Investigate further the opportunities for leisure provision and developing the evening economy;

- Review the car parking provision and requirements, particularly in view of the possible future development of the King Street car park which is not mentioned in the Study.

**Resolved:** That the above suggestions be used as a basis for the development of a Town action plan for Mold with representatives of the County Council.

## 72. IMPROVEMENT INITIATIVES

The Council noted that, notwithstanding the preparations required for the development of Town Action Plans (following the Town Centre Healthchecks Study), Flintshire County Council has allocated a sum of £100,000 from its corporate environment budget to be spent across Flintshire towns in the current financial year.

It was also noted that the Environment and Regeneration Directorate had asked for suggestions for a pilot programme of works that could make an appreciable difference to Mold Town centre. It was hoped that if this pilot project were successful, future County Council funding might be available for use in conjunction with the Rural Development Plan (RDP), and WAG TidyTowns grants for on-going town centre improvement plans.

Members suggested that the following schemes should be put forward to the County Council for consideration:

- Replacement of the older lighting columns in the Town Centre;
- Improvements to the floral displays in the Town, including the provision of displays on the walls of the public toilets;
- Cleaning chewing gum from the footpaths in Town;
- Provision of lighting column banners to promote and market events in the Town;
- Improvements to / provision of signage for public toilets, bus station, formal park, hospital and indoor market;
- Tourism / marketing material – guides, trails, interpretation boards, maps, leaflets, notice boards, cinema and theatre advertisements;
- Exhibition display stands sited inside the windows of empty shops for local art;
- Public art / displays / sculptures within prominent areas of the Town Centre;

**Resolved:** That the above suggestions be developed with officers of the Regeneration Section of the County Council for inclusion within a scheme of improvement works in the current financial year.

## 73. FUTURE PROJECTS

Members recalled the meeting with Colin Everett, Chief Executive of the County Council, on 10 September 2008, when he asked the Town Council to identify any schemes which are outstanding, and also long-term projects for the Town.

Whilst it was recognised that there were no guarantees that any scheme would be undertaken, it was felt that the identification of aspirations would bring them to the fore such that they could be pursued if and when opportunities arise. The following schemes were identified and submitted by Members:

### Schemes which are outstanding:

- Resolution to drainage / flooding issues affecting Mold and including Cae Bracty
- Widening and improving Gas Lane
- Provision of a canopy on High Street on opposite side to existing canopy
- Development of a County Museum using the Old Courthouse
- Provision of skateboarding facilities
- Development of an extension to Mold Cemetery, including:
  - Land swap with County Council
  - Relocation of play area
  - Fencing of both new play area and cemetery extension
  - Footpath provision on Gas Lane
  - Gas Lane traffic calming
- Decriminalisation of parking, and implementation of a parking strategy to include provision of more residential parking

### Long-term projects:

- Refurbishment and remodelling of the Daniel Owen Square, including:
  - Covered entertainment area
  - Bandstand / demountable stage
  - Power points / electricity for market stalls
- Covering the Daniel Owen shopping precinct
- Vehicle activated signs on King Street and Chester Road / traffic calming at Bromfield Lane, Bryn Coch Lane, The Park / Parkway and The Firs Estate
- Reviewing older existing traffic calming schemes at Ffordd Pentre / Woodlands Close
- Provision of 'brown on white' signs on A55 indicating Clwyd Theatr Cymru, Welsh College of Horticulture, Mold Markets and the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
- Provision of visitor attraction e.g., relating to the author Daniel Owen
- Development of Bailey Hill into a visitor attraction
- Through public procurement provide local produce in school meals.

**Resolved:** That the above items be identified to the Chief Executive of Flintshire County Council as current matters of concern to the Town Council and aspirations for the future of the Town.

### SUMMARY OF DECLARATIONS MADE BY MEMBERS IN ACCORDANCE WITH MOLD TOWN COUNCIL'S CODE OF CONDUCT

<b>MOLD TOWN COUNCIL</b>	<b>DATE: 8<sup>th</sup> October 2008</b>
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<b>MEMBER</b>	<b>ITEM</b>	<b>MINUTE NO. REFERS</b>
None		

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