

## **Rhondda Community Business Initiatives Ltd.**

### **Minutes of the Board of Directors meeting held at 2 pm on Wednesday, 17th January 2007**

Present: Neal Hammond, Wyndham King (Chair), Mal Brewer, Mike Chapman, Dai Williams, Kerry Davies, Em Jenkins.

Apologies: , June Abbott, Gerda Beckers.

1. Minutes of the last meeting, held on 6/12/06, were accepted as a true record.
2. Financial report. Neal gave a verbal report, which was accepted.
3. Phoenix. Mike reported on the cinema, films booked, recent cinema takings, Christmas break, youth problems, etc. Accepted.
4. Bwllfa. Neal reported on the progress of work on footpaths. Accepted.
5. Em reported progress on St. Peters and Pentre Park developments. He mentioned ~~that~~ Martin Sullivan had been very supportive. Accepted.
6. Neal reported on success by Transport Police in apprehending graffiti culprits on Ton Pentre Railway Station. They will be attending next PACT meeting to report.
7. Draft re-appraisal document. Neal distributed copies for discussion. The document was approved and Neal was asked to complete the document by the next meeting if possible.
8. Meeting With Meurig Brookes.
  - State of progress with new European funding: In general nothing new to report.
  - Capital funding: The future of the community regeneration fund is uncertain and depends on European Community rulings on certain issues. Welsh Church Acts Fund is still available and there may still be money available in the Prominent Buildings Fund. Meurig will enquire. If money is available from the Prominent Buildings Fund, the recommendation is that we apply immediately for money to repair the windows, but that we defer any larger applications for structural repairs until there is more information about the future of the community regeneration fund. Meurig will keep information about Huw Williams' costings, and indicated that he would support our future applications. Recommendation accepted.
  - Revenue funding: Meurig appeared to be sympathetic to our draft re-appraisal and the concept of 'anchor' organisations, but was doubtful about local authority commitment to service level agreements. However, in due course, it might be possible to apply for revenue funding to the community regeneration fund or whatever might replace it.

- Social Enterprise: There are still grey areas surrounding legislation about social/community enterprise. It is anticipated that there will be legislation to clarify some of the most difficult issues. Government policy is to encourage local authorities to be supportive of social enterprise.
9. Network Rail. A peppercorn lease has been offered to us in relation to the piece of wasteland owned by Network Rail, adjoining Ton Pentre Railway Station. There are some issues attending this offer that need further consideration. It was agreed that we would seek a meeting with Network Rail and other interested parties to try to resolve the issues. Tied up with these issues is the considerable issue of the re-structuring of Objective One, Area Regeneration Partnerships and Communities First, all of which may have a bearing on future levels of support from the local authority.

The meeting was declared closed at 3.30 pm.

**Next meeting: Wed. 14<sup>th</sup> February at 2 pm.**