



## **Newport Unlimited Minutes of the Meeting of the Board held on 20 March 2008**

**Present:** Councillor R Bright ( in the Chair); Mr J Burrows, Mr S Gibson, Councillor Mrs E Heath, Mr G Jackson, Mr G. Keighley, Mr M Noor, Mr J Norvill, Mr D Roberts and Ms K Thomas.

**Apologies:** Mr G Watson, Mr D Bowler, Mr P Bisson, and Mr C Freegard

**Also in**

**Attendance:** Mr A Dakin, Mr L Donovan, Ms K Evans, Ms K Minter, Mr P Tarling and Mr R Jefferies

### **1. Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 21 February 2008 were confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

#### Joint PR Work

The Board was informed that progress was being made on the proposals for more joint PR work involving the URC, the Council and the Celtic Manor.

#### Advertising on Stations

The Board was advised that meetings were continuing to consider effective options for advertising at stations.

### **2. Chief Executive's Report**

The Chief Executive updated the Board on the issues that had arisen and the meetings or events held since the last Board meeting. Progress on key projects and target dates for the regeneration programme were reported.

The main issues raised were:

#### MIPIM Conference

Members received a report on the recent MIPIM Conference, held in France. It was considered that the opportunity to promote Newport more widely, particularly in the build

up to the Ryder Cup was worthy of further examination. Members were shown how cities, regions and countries used MIPIM for promotional purposes.

**THE BOARD AGREED** in principle to an enhanced presence at MIPIM in the next two years. A report was requested showing options, proposals and costs before any formal decision is taken.

#### Ebbw Valley Rail Link

The project was proving to be a success but concerns remain about the lack of a service to Newport. Some progress was reported on proposals for a station at Monbank.

**THE BOARD AGREED** to ask Network Rail to make a presentation at the appropriate time on proposals for station stops as a part of an extended Phase 1 and also proposals for a full service to Newport Central Station.

#### Hospital District

There had been no further political announcement since the Health Minister had sought further information from her officials on the travel data provided by the Trust. No announcement was now expected until the summer.

It appears that the Minister's independent transport appraisal had recognised the sustainability issues and there were funding issues to be considered also before a decision would be made. The Board considered that plans should continue on the basis of both scenarios, one with a regional hospital included and one without.

Members considered that, whatever the outcome of the hospital relocations, the unique and strategic nature of the Whiteheads / Monbank site needs to be borne in mind and it was important to use the northern part of the site for prestigious employment-related development, whilst recognising that receipts had to be achieved from the site from residential and mixed use development of the rest of the site.

#### Friars Walk

The commercial and residential pre-letting situation was positive. It was acknowledged that the current position in the banking community could impact on timing.

#### University Campus

Preliminary works were on site. It was important that the income from assets were maximised. An update on the Allt Yr Yn site was requested.

#### Former Art College

The Board had continuing concerns about lack of progress. The Council has retained emergency powers which could be used if necessary. CPO was an option but only if owners were given an opportunity for the development to progress.

### Crindau

There was to be a presentation at the next Board meeting.

### Jack's Pill

Filling the Pill appears to be the most sensible way forward. Costs were being examined and proposals would be brought back to the Board.

### Westmark

The Westmark scheme was now on site.

### West Newport

The Data Centre had been confirmed. There was a need to move forward on masterplanning West Newport when proposals for the M4 and other elements in the area were clear.

### East Newport

St Modwen had put the first parcel of land to the market.

### Gateway Features

There was to be a report to the next Board meeting.

### Leisure and Entertainment

The Board was keen to see a strategy for the provision of high quality leisure, entertainment and restaurant facilities in the city and asked for the outcome of studies to be reported back as early as possible.

## **3. Marketing Activity Review**

The Marketing Executive reported on recent, current and planned short term marketing activity for Newport Unlimited. The Board noted the current and planned activities.

The Board asked for a report on how to promote the Ryder Cup and Newport simultaneously.

## **4. Business Plan 2008**

The Board was presented with a series of tables which would form the nucleus of the draft 2008-2009 Business Plan for submission to the founder Members.

### **IT WAS AGREED:**

- Subject to minor amendments described at the meeting, the information contained in the tables provide a suitable basis on which the company should take the development programme forward.

- The information contained in the tables should form the nucleus of the draft 2008-2009 Business Plan for submission to the founder Members.
- Once incorporated, the draft 2008/09 business plan should be submitted to the founder member organisations for approval.

## **5. St Anne's Hospice**

The Leader of the Council informed Board Members of an approach made by St Anne's.

**IT WAS AGREED** in principle to work with St Anne's to try to identify a piece of land within the regeneration area for a 20-bed hospice.

## **6. Next Meeting**

22 May 2008