

**Minutes of the Allt-yr-yn Community Liaison Group held on 27 August 2008**

**Present:**

Mr C O'Malley (Chair)  
Cllr M Evans  
Cllr D Fouweather  
Cllr A L Knight  
Mr S Godber  
Ms C Murphy

**In Attendance:**

Mr P Folan (Servicing Officer)

**Action**

AL/08/01. **Minutes of the meeting held on 1 November 2007**

a) Received:

A copy of the Minutes of the last Allt-yr-yn Community Liaison meeting held on 1 November 2007.

b) Noted that:

i) *on minute 3*, the University had now signed a Development Agreement with Newport City Council and Newport Unlimited in respect of the city centre campus project; and

ii) *on minute 4*, the newly elected Council no longer planned to close the north bound slipway near the railway station, thus sparing road users the added journey to the Harlequin roundabout to turn in order to reach the riverside in the city centre.

iii) *on minute 5*, Mr Stephen Godber had replaced Mr Simon Bray as the designated Site Supervisor and Licensee for the Allt-yr-yn campus.

c) **Resolved:**

**to approve the minutes as a true and accurate record of the meeting.**

AL/08/02.

**Strategic Developments**

.1 City Centre Campus

a) Received:

A presentation by the Chair based on the “fly through” DVD produced by BDP Design Group

b) Noted that:

i) the ‘fly through’ related to the first phase of a prospective £50M city centre campus project that would complement other creative arts facilities in the city such as a prospective Contemporary Arts Centre (for which Newport was competing with Wrexham) and National Documents Archive;

ii) a start date had yet to be determined for the construction work to commence, and the University was incurring some delay owing to the need to agree a maximum price for the construction phase, but it was still anticipated that the building would be completed in 2010;

iii) the University was active in supporting the development of a cultural quarter in Newport, and had held a conference on the subject in June 2008, and was currently using the Riverfront Theatre for exhibitions, a film festival sponsored by NGB2B and public lectures provided by academic staff;

v) other developments in the area were crucial to establishing an environment free of litter and graffiti in which visitors to the university and the cultural quarter more generally felt safe, and work on the Friars Walk scheme was expected to progress even though other planned developments might need to be put on hold in the current economic climate.

.2 Other Campus Developments

a) Noted:

i) outline planning permission for the Allt-yr-yn campus had been granted and the University was working on a sales strategy with a view to vacating the campus in 2010; and

ii) it was understood that local residents were hoping that the campus would be sold to a developer who could bring a prestigious project to the area, noting that the excellence of the 3 local primary schools provided a strong draw for residential developments.

### .3 Regeneration

a) Noted:

i) the University was progressing cross-disciplinary work around the themes of sport, health, creative industries and regeneration;

ii) these developments were linked to commerce and the University would be hosting the Welsh hub for the financial services skills sector, was working on skills development with the construction industry, was patron to the NGB2B chamber of commerce, had employers on the board of the Skillset Screen Academy and was establishing an Entrepreneurship Foundation.

iii) whilst the University competed in general with UWIC, Glamorgan, UWE and Gloucester, it competed with different ranges of institutions across the UK in respect of discrete academic disciplines and specialisms, such as film, fashion and interactive art;

iv) the University anticipated that there would be growth in the number of overseas students (there were now some 300 students at Newport, from some 60 countries outside the European Union, compared with 100 a few years ago), and the hosting at Newport of the Wales International Student Centre for foundation studies leading to entry to programmes in any university in Wales was also expected to lead to some expansion in student recruitment at Newport;

AL/08/03.

### Car Parking/Traffic

a) Noted:

i) the University was still exploring options in relation to shuttle buses between the campuses, prospectively extending to the Rogerstone railway halt for those students who might want to use the Ebbw Vale rail link and who were currently beset

with the difficulties posed by the fact the rail service did not join up with Newport's central train station (and the University was encouraged to register its concerns about the disadvantages arising from the current arrangement);

ii) consideration would also need to be given to utilisation of multi-storey car parks that were understood to be planned in the vicinity of the city centre campus and the use of park and ride facilities to link car parks on the perimeters of the city (in which regard, the University hoped to trial a scheme at Spytty Park in the autumn); and

iii) the University would also be encouraging cycling as a means of transport between the two campuses.

AL/08/04. **Any Other Business**

.1 **Forthcoming Events**

a) Received:

a tabled paper from the Director of Marketing and External Affairs that listed forthcoming events to which the Councillors were cordially invited.

b) Noted:

i) the Campus2Campus Challenge event that would be taking place on 31<sup>st</sup> August 2008, starting at 10.00am at the Allt-yr-yn Campus, was expected to become a firm fixture in Welsh athletics and the scope for fund raising through the event to support the Mayor's appeal was being explored;

ii) there would be a road closure of some 45 minutes on Allt-yr-yn View to facilitate the event;

iii) former students of the University were exhibiting work under the title "Ghosts in Armour" at the Riverfront Theatre from the 5<sup>th</sup> September until the 18<sup>th</sup> October 2008, and current performing arts students from the University would present a restoration comedy at the Riverfront Theatre from 27<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> November entitled "The Man of Mode";

iv) a Remembrance Sunday commemoration would be held at 11:00 a.m. on the Caerleon campus on 9<sup>th</sup> November 2008 and a Carol Service that would be held on the Caerleon campus at

6.00pm on 8<sup>th</sup> December 2008;

v) a film exhibition at the Chapter Arts Centre in Cardiff until 21<sup>st</sup> October 2008 and a fine art exhibition at Newport's Riverfront Theatre from 6<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> November 2008; and

vi) an Indian dance event would be hosted by the School of Education on the Caerleon campus at 7.30pm on 21<sup>st</sup> November 2008 entitled "Kathakali".

.2 Polling Station

a) Noted:

i) the Allt-yr-yn campus had not been available for use as a polling station in the May 2008 local elections and this had caused local residents some inconvenience;

ii) the University would liaise with the electoral registrar to establish the prospective dates of further elections, up to the point when the campus was due to be vacated in 2010, that might be accommodated by the University.

**SG**

AL/08/05.

Date of Next Meeting

a) Noted:

the University Secretary's Office would liaise with the Member Services section of Newport City Council to establish dates for the next two meetings, to be arranged on a cycle that there would be a meeting in October followed by a meeting in March (although it was acknowledged that if there was insufficient business for the October meeting, following so closely upon the present meeting, it would be cancelled).

**PF**