

## ***NOTES OF INQUORATE SPECIAL MEETING HELD ON 12<sup>th</sup>. DECEMBER 2018***

***Present : Councillor J Edwards ( Mayor )  
Councillors Z Hammond & A Short***

### ***1. Apologies for Absence***

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors G James, J Weeks, J Griffiths, T Evans, R Mills, P Cook & D Jones

### ***2. Declarations of Interest***

Councillor A Short declared an Interest as a business owner close to the proposed development

### ***3. To Consider Town Council's Response to the Pre Application Consultation on proposed Redevelopment of the former Somerfield Supermarket at the Market Place***

Members considered the views expressed at the Town Council meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup>. December and having spent time going through the Briefing Paper and Plans provided by the Consultants ***agreed*** to forward the following as Town Council's response, bearing in mind that formal responses must be made by 21<sup>st</sup>. December

Blackwood Town Council are broadly in favour of the proposals and would welcome such a scheme that promises to help regenerate our town.

We will obviously retain our right to comment further and in more detail when the planning application is formally presented to Caerphilly County Borough Council for consideration.

Town Council were thankful for the presentation by Mr. John Steven ( Consultant to FCFM Group ) who kindly afforded us the opportunity to comment on the report he presented and to make suggestions or amendments we feel might make the proposal more attractive to the town –

- The proposals for the Artisan Market should in no way disadvantage existing businesses in the High Street
- Artisan should relate to home made/ crafted goods, specialist services and collectibles
- Consider identifying one unit for potential work with local schools, colleges to encourage entrepreneurial skills which could also be used as a potential location for test trading activity for pre start ups ( possibly working with Business Wales to develop referral mechanisms & criteria for use and look to link with their mentoring & Big Idea Wales Schemes also )
- Query the possibility of a logistics hub to support the artisans and start up/ test traders with office/ back office support
- Query the possibility of one unit being identified as a Community Unit for use by the Heritage Association/ Historical Society/ Information Centre

- Existing businesses on the High Street and Gravel Lane currently have service entry access to their properties and this will need consideration
- Recommend the existing Market Precinct units become an extension of new development proposals with consideration of more realistic rentals to ensure full occupancy
- Is 7 day opening from 10am-7.00pm for single person/small family businesses realistic from the start ?
- Communal toilets planned are welcomed, but with existing toilets currently within the Bus Station wonder whether there may be room for negotiation with Caerphilly CBC if properly managed and maintained
- You state Application interviews for Artisan units will be undertaken by the Centre Manager – request consideration be given to a Town Council representative to assist in the process
- Artisan Market Community Board – request consideration be given to a representative from the Market Place businesses
- Consideration needs to be given to the definition of those who have lived in Blackwood etc. – will it be the Town Council area or wider ?
- The proposals for events being held on the site is welcomed and would recommend close working with the Town Council Events Committee and Caerphilly CBC Events team to ensure planned events for the town can benefit the Market Place/ Artisan Units