

**MERTHYR TYDFIL FINANCIAL INCLUSION FORUM**  
**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 3<sup>RD</sup> JUNE 2009**

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**Present:**

Ryan Jones (RJ)	Wales Co Operative Centre (Chair)
Sharon Richards (SR)	Health & Social Care Facilitator, VAMT (Secretariat)
Sally Richards (SaR)	Merthyr Valleys Homes
Sharon Rouse (ShR)	Morphious
Michelle Powell (MP)	Communities First – Town & Park
Alyson King (AK)	Co-ordinator, Communities First – Trefechan
Sally McIntyre (SM)	Communities First – Trefechan
Martin Jones (MJ)	3Gs Development Trust
Delyth Shearing (DS)	Merthyr Tydfil Credit Union
Helen Thomas (HT)	Communities First – Taf Bargoed
Sherelle Jones (SJ)	Communities First – Taf Bargoed
Jill Shuker (JS)	MTCBC
David Ashman (DA)	WEA
Lisa May (LM)	MTHA

**1. Welcome / Introductions / Apologies**

The Chair welcomed new members to the Forum, then led a round of introductions.

Apologies were received from Carol Adams; Alison Chaplin; Tracy Mason; Cerys Harries; Carol Smith; Jayne Komor and Ian Davy.

**2. Minutes of the Meeting held on 29<sup>th</sup> April 2009**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 29<sup>th</sup> April were agreed as an accurate record. Proposed by SaR and seconded by DS.

**Matters Arising**

2.1 (item 2 refers) The draft Terms of Reference previously distributed were agreed by the Forum.

2.2 (3.3.3 refers) JS confirmed that:

- MTCBC have adopted a Regeneration Strategy and the Regeneration Partnership is tasked with monitoring and reviewing it .
- The Partnership is to be redefined
- There are links to be made between the Regeneration Partnership and the Financial Inclusion Forum.

**Action: SR obtain and circulate copies of Regeneration Strategy**

- 2.3 (3.3.4 refers) SR advised that a meeting is being held on 16<sup>th</sup> June with Frank Callas, HOV Strategic Programme Manager (Education).  
**Action: SR / ID to feedback at the next meeting**
- 2.4 (3.3.5 refers) Meeting not yet arranged with Merthyr College.  
**Action: RJ / ID**
- 2.5 (3.3.6 refers) Information regarding the Employer Pledge to be circulated.  
**Action: SR**
- 2.6 (3.3.7 refers) SaR gave an update from the Community Strategy meeting. All strategies are currently being reviewed; Financial Inclusion to be included. A revised Community Strategy is to be in place by April 2010.
- 2.7 (4.1 and 4.2 refers) RJ confirmed that the Camarthenshire project has been running for 2 weeks. It was suggested to visit the project towards the end of September once the project had opportunity to establish. Provision dates to be looked at now.  
**Action: SM to co-ordinate**
- 2.8 (6.1 refers) SJ advised that additional information is now available re Quakers Yard and Edwardsville to inform the mapping exercise. Mapping to be updated and circulated.  
**Action: SJ / RJ / SR**
- 2.9 (7 refers) The Forum's response to the WAG Consultation has been submitted and acknowledged.
- 2.10 (8.4 refers) SJ to send template to SR for circulation. **Action: SJ / SR**
- 2.11 (8.5 refers) SaR met with Lisa of CAB and gave feedback to the Forum.

### **3 Financial Services Authority**

The Chair welcomed Lee Phillips, Financial Capability Manager for Wales to the Forum. Lee proceeded to deliver an interesting and informative presentation on the role of the FSA, outlining key areas of their work, and highlighting their aim to work with 10 million people by 2011. A copy of the presentation is featured as Appendix A.

### **4 Action Plan**

The Forum discussed the action plan and amendments are incorporated in a revised document – Appendix B refers.

### **5 Information Share / Any Other Business**

- 5.1 The Chair advised that CCCS are offering services similar to those of CAB, and they will soon launch a Housing Debt-Line for Wales.

- 5.2 SR advised of the recently formed “Maximising Income” sub group of the Local Authority-led Older Person’s Steering Group, and indicated that links are being established with the group.
- 5.3 DS confirmed that the Credit Union have appointed to the post of Credit Controller / Admin, and are also extending their offices into the first floor accommodation.
- 5.4 SM advised that Communities First Trefechan will be holding a “Credit Crunch Day”, where they hope to determine the needs of the community, and then arrange relevant training to meet the needs.
- DM confirmed that WEA could support this by delivering the training. A minimum of 8 participants (16+ years) is required.
- 5.5 Following discussion it was agreed that all future meetings would commence at 9.30 am and run until 11.30 am.

**Action: All Forum Members**

There being no further business, the meeting closed.

## **6 Date of Next Meeting**

Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> July 2009

\*\*\*9.30 am to 11.30 am\*\*\*

Voluntary Action Centre, 89-90 High Street, Merthyr Tydfil