

## **Caerphilly Local Development Plan**

### **Hearing Session 7**

#### **Community facilities, Leisure & Tourism**

#### **Representor 4001**

**CRAI District Scout Council – Agent: Stephen Hiles, GAP  
TM99.1 Islwyn Scout campsite, nr Newbridge**

#### **STATEMENT**

The history of the Scout Parc began in the early '60's when the Islwyn District Scouts used Pant-Y-Scawen farm for camping and other activities. After a number of years the farmer, the late Brian Edwards, offered the field for the District to purchase and use as their own campsite. In 1975 the District began fundraising and held a sponsored fun run around the Oakdale area which raised approximately £1200 towards the purchase of the field. It was later decided to build a lodge and toilet block to provide basic facilities for campers.

In 1978/79 the Chief Scout William Gladstone officially opened the first field. A lodge and toilet block was constructed and on the 21st May 1983 the facilities were opened by the Chief Scout Major General John Walsh. By 1986 the District had purchased the second field which would be used for training purposes. In 1990 the decision was made to open up the campsite for other organisations to use, and begin fundraising to build an activity centre which would incorporate an abseiling/climbing wall, and allow groups to do various activities indoors during inclement weather.

With funding from the National Lottery the centre was built and opened in 1999 by retired Chief Scout Garth Morrison. Over the past year the Scout Parc has seen a number of changes including having LPG central heating installed and in conjunction with the local council a new recycling scheme. This enables the Parc to recycle the majority of its waste thus promoting a greener environment. The Scout Parc is an International campsite with visitors coming from as far a field as America, and the Czech Republic, with many returning year after year.

Since opening, Islwyn Scout Parc has been subject to a number of Planning Applications, together with numerous awards for Grant Aid from both the current and former Local Authorities. It also, benefits from certain exemptions resulting from a certificate issued under Section 269 of the Public Health Act 1936 (Copy attached). It is our contention that the area should be listed for Education, Leisure and Tourism, in order that any future developments which the Scout Association, or its member District or Group Executive Committees should wish to make, be tested against the appropriate Planning Policies.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936. SECTION 269.

CERTIFICATE OF EXEMPTION.

Whereas by sub-section (6) of Section 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936, it is provided that if an organisation satisfies the Minister of Health that it takes reasonable steps for securing

- (a) that camping sites belonging to or provided by it, or used by its members, are properly managed and kept in good sanitary conditions, and
- (b) that moveable dwellings used by its members are so used as not to give rise to any nuisance, the Minister may grant to that organisation a certificate of exemption from the provisions of the said Section 269.

And whereas The Boy Scouts Association have applied to the Minister for such Certificate of Exemption as aforesaid and have satisfied the Minister as to the matters aforesaid.

Now therefore the Minister of Health in pursuance of the powers conferred upon him by the said sub-section (6) of Section 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936, hereby grants to The Boy Scouts Association a certificate of exemption from the provisions of the said Section 269.

Dated this 29<sup>th</sup> day of December, 1937.

W. A. Ross.

Assistant Secretary,  
Ministry of Health.