At an Informal Meeting of Pembroke Dock Town Council held at the Pater Hall, Pembroke Dock on Tuesday, 31st October, 2000 at 4.00 p.m.

PRESENT:

Councillor Mrs. P.E.M. Folland (Mayor) Councillors W.J. Davies, R.F. Finbow, Mrs. C. Fortune, D.L. Jones, M.B. Owen, S. Perkins, Mrs. V.M.J. Roach, Mrs. B. Roch, Mrs. M. Williamson.

ALSO PRESENT:

Mr. G. Evans (European Officer, Pembs.CC)
Mr. J. Turbervill (Projects Officer, Pembs.CC)

IN ATTENDANCE:

Mr. T.R. Edwards, Town Clerk

The Informal Meeting had been convened in order to meet with Officers of Pembrokeshire County Council regarding future proposals for the economic development of the Town.

The Mayor opened the Meeting by extending a welcome to representatives of Pembrokeshire County Council.

1. APOLOGY FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Mrs. P.E. George.

2. PROPOSALS FOR PEMBROKE DOCK

Mr. G. Evans and Mr. J. Turbervill outlined the major developments which had taken place in Pembroke Dock since Local Government Reorganisation, 1996. These included the Call Centre, Watersports Centre, two factories occupied in Ferry Lane and the £11m improvement scheme at the Ferry Terminal and Dockyard.

Any waterfront development would have to include private investment.

The £2m Townscape Heritage Lottery scheme was about to come on stream with the Project Co-ordinator soon to be appointed.

Councillor M.B. Owen outlined the proposals which he had presented to the Council Meeting on the 28th September, 2000 and urged that action be taken to improve the image and amenities in the town.

Councillor Mrs. C. Fortune said that she was satisfied with recent developments and progress made.

Councillor D.L. Jones asked whether there was an Objective 1 strategy for Pembroke Dock. The European Officer stated that the strategy was for the whole County. Regarding the development of the Power Station site, this involved a partnership comprising of Pembrokeshire County Council, Welsh Development Agency, Milford Port Authority and the private sector. A number of reports had been commissioned and a feasibility study started.

Properties had been acquired in the Hancocks Jetty area and reports commissioned. Any development on the waterfront from Hobbs Point to the Martello Tower would require private sector partners.

The planting of trees in Meyrick Street had been considered during the previous enhancement scheme but due to the presence of so many service cables etc. it had to be abandoned.

Councillor Mrs. V.M.J. Roach asked whether the Consultants report into the cobbled sets in the Town and in Tenby had been received. She was informed that the report was in the course of preparation.

Councillor R.F. Finbow asked whether the Defensible Barracks were included in the Heritage Scheme. This was confirmed but as it was privately owned future use would have to be carefully considered. The land to the north of the Barracks is owned by Pembrokeshire County Council.

Councillor D.L. Jones asked about sources of matchfunding. These cannot include any European funding and would include possible grants from CADW and the Wales Tourist Board.

Councillor Mrs. M. Williamson was concerned with a further closure at the St. Govan's Centre.

Councillor Mrs. B. Roch requested clarificiation on the current situation at Pennar Park. This site is now in private ownership and talks had been held by the owners with the WDA regarding possible grants. Mr. J. Turbervill said that any new development would require all new services e.g. gas and electricity and a new road. He was not aware of any immediate proposals.

The Dockyard wall from the eastern entrance to the Martello Tower is owned by the Milford Docks Company and they have recently examined it and made any necessary repairs.

Councillor S. Perkins was generally satisfied with recent developments but was concerned with the town centre appearance. She asked whether lottery grants were available for shop front improvements. This was confirmed but the grant calculation was complex and takes into account the future market value of the premises.

Regarding the footpath from Tesco to King William Street she asked when the previously agreed pathway and landscaping would be commenced. Mr. Turbervill stated that this and other schemes had to compete for funding priority.

Councillor M.B. Owen asked what schemes were currently being undertaken now or in the near future. These included:-

Bush Street improvements
Sunderland House
Customs House – new windows
Graving Dock
No. 1 Dockyard Terrace (completed)
Garrison Chapel
Second Call Centre

Other schemes awaiting approval:-

Support for Heritage Lottery Project Co-ordinator Environmental Improvements in Dockyard Coronation Centre – IT Training Bush & Park Estate – social problem assistance

Councillor W.J. Davies outlined improvements in the Town and was satisfied with progress made in recent years.

Mr. Turbervill said that comments made would be taken "on board." It was essential that there was positive "spin" and the Town Council had a role to play in this. Pembrokeshire County Council was disappointed with recent press headlines. He and other staff were always available for consultation.

The Mayor thanked the Officers for attending and for being so informative.

The Meeting terminated at 5.35 p.m.

