

# *The Caerphilly Local History Society*

Registered charity No. 1117655

27<sup>th</sup> September 2009.

Katherine Hughes,  
Secretary,  
Caerphilly Miners Community Centre Committee.

Dear Mrs. Hughes,

I am pleased to inform that your committee's outline proposals for the future community use of the Miner's Hospital building meet with the full approval of The Caerphilly Local History Society. Our society is in its 52<sup>nd</sup> year and last year attracted record membership. We have sought, for some years now, to open a heritage centre convenient for the local community. Our town possesses a heritage that stretches back to Iron Age people, through Roman and Norman occupation to the modern era of coal and railways. This latter period is one in which this building played a part, it being once the substantial home of Mr. Piggot, a mining engineer. This was followed by use as a military hospital before being subsequently becoming our local hospital paid for, in the main, by subscriptions from the miners of the area.

A permanent exhibition of the history of this building and the development of health care in Caerffili would be a splendid asset to our town. This could be coupled with permanent or short duration exhibitions on many other aspects of our history. Mining was important, of course, but before this Caerffili was a textile town and later became a major rail centre, enjoying the epithet 'The Swindon of Wales'. These aspects of our history are not well publicised and providing the community and our many visitors with a balanced view of our heritage is long overdue.

We, in the history society, look forward to assisting your committee's efforts to preserve this important and attractive building for our community. The people of Caerffili are interested in their heritage, as evidenced by the size of our membership and the healthy sales of our publications. Your proposals will provide a centre of education for all and a living testament to the sacrifices of the mineworkers that provided the town with a hospital that was much loved and respected during its many years of service.

Richard Edward Williams (Chairman & acting Treasurer)