

CAERPHILLY COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

YSTRAD MYNACH TOWN CENTRE FORUM

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT THE COUNCIL OFFICES, TREDOMEN ON THURSDAY, 27TH MARCH 1997 AT 4.00 P.M.

PRESENT:

Councillors:

B. Jones and K.C. Cooper.

Together with:

Group Manager (Forward Planning), Principal Environmental Health Officer, Research Officer (JC), Head of Professional Services, Head of Policy and Central Services, Policy and Research Manager, Committee Services Manager.

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors J.M. Purnell, S. Jenkins and D. Shelton, Principal Education Officer (Learning Support).

Organisations Represented:

Ystrad Mynach & District Chamber of Trade: Mr. A. Webb

Lewis Girls Comprehensive School: Mrs. S. Noakes

Gelligaer Community Council: Councillors T. Davies, B. Thomas and C. Thomas

Gwent Association of Voluntary Organisations: M. Bridgman

Gwent Tec: Mrs. P. Bayliss

Gwent Constabulary: D. Johnson

Groundwork Caerphilly: P. Williams, Miss F. Davidson and N. Forster

Welsh Development Agency: Miss C. McLean

Ystrad Mynach College: M.A. Jones

It was agreed that in the absence of Councillor J.M. Purnell and S. Jenkins (Chairman and Vice-Chairman) of the Planning Committee, this item would be deferred to the next meeting.

Councillor B. Jones took the Chair for this meeting.

YM2 ADOPTION OF TERMS OF REFERENCE - ROLE OF FORUM

It was agreed that the terms of reference for this Forum would be:-

- (i) to act as a sounding board for opinions and suggestions regarding the town centre. Where financial and/or policy decisions were needed Council members and officers would take the proposals back to the Council for determination;
- (ii) the partnership represented on the Forum would enable the creation as and when appropriate of working parties to organise events and activities promoting the town centre and co-ordinate the provision of facilities where appropriate;
- (iii) senior officers of the Council would be available to provide the Forum with detailed information on specialist and technical subjects from time to time.

YM3 PRESENTATION ON SUCCESSFUL CHALLENGE BID

The Forum noted that the Council had been awarded £3.66m over three years under the Welsh Office's Capital Challenge Scheme. This award would greatly assist the implementation of the Ystrad Mynach local area regeneration strategy. That strategy comprised:-

- (a) Cherry Grove Special School;
- (b) Ystrad Mynach Town Centre enhancement;
- (c) Tredomen Business Park access;
- (d) Environmental improvements.

YM4 OAKFIELD STREET CAR PARK ACCESS ROAD - UPDATE ON PROGRESS

It was reported that the work to create a new car park access from Pengam Road was on schedule and would last about twenty weeks. It would incorporate a turning head for school buses and provide more parking spaces.

YM5 PROGRESS REPORT ON NEW SPECIAL SCHOOL - YSTRAD MYNACH

The Forum was informed that work was proceeding on phase one with the second phase due to start shortly with a view to the school in opening in September 1998. A temporary governing body had been established and it was hoped that the headteacher would be in the post by January 1998. The new school would be the main special school for up to 120 children in the area and would develop into an international centre of excellence for children who will have access to specialists from different disciplines.

YM6 TIMETABLE FOR TOWN CENTRE ENHANCEMENT SCHEME

The Forum noted the following timetable for the town centre enhancement scheme:-

10th April 1997	Draft scheme reported to Planning (Policy) Committee
12th May 1997	Publication of Draft Traffic Order
12th-19th May 1997	Public exhibition of draft proposals in Ystrad Mynach library
2nd June 1997	Deadline for responses/objections to draft plans and Traffic Order
29th July 1997	Traffic Order amended/confirmed by Highways Transportation and Public Works Committee
July/August 1997	Tenders invited and awarded
September 1997	Start on site
December 1997	Phase 1 completed

YM7 COMMUNITY LINKS - PRESENTATION BY GROUNDWORK

The Forum received a slide presentation from Mr. Peter Williams (Executive Director) and Mr. Nigel Foster (Landscape Architect) from Groundwork Caerphilly. They gave examples of community improvement that they had carried out within the former Islwyn area. The Community Environment Programme coordinated by Groundwork would create a network of community route ways, footpaths and cycle ways linear parks - open spaces and roadside planting within Ystrad Mynach and the wider environment. An important element of this network would be to create links between the new and existing development in the area. Community consultation and participation would be encouraged.

YM8 ITEMS FOR FUTURE DISCUSSION

It was agreed that the next meeting would be held towards the middle of May and representatives of outside organisations were asked to forward any issues they wished raised approximately two weeks before that meeting to the Committee Section of the Chief Executive's Department. A presentation on crime prevention measures which could be built into the new scheme would be given at the next meeting of the Forum.

