

CAERPHILLY COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

YSTRAD MYNACH TOWN CENTRE FORUM

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT THE COUNCIL OFFICES, TREDOMEN ON THURSDAY, 22ND MAY 1997 AT 4.30 P.M.

PRESENT:

Councillors:

K.C. Cooper, S. Jenkins, B. Jones and J. Purnell

Together with:

Policy and Research Manager, Group Manager (Forward Planning), Crime Prevention Officer (AJ), Policy Officer, Environmental Services (PS), Principal Engineer (Liaison and Monitoring), Principal Engineer (Management and Regulations) (DE), Principal Education Officer (Learning Support), Research Officer (JC), Committee Services Officer (ID).

Organisations Represented

Ystrad Mynach & District Chamber of Trade: Messrs G Jones and D Price

Lewis Girls Comprehensive School: Mrs. S. Noakes

Gelligaer Community Council: Councillor D.T. Davies

Gwent Association of Voluntary Organisations: Ms. G.M. Genner

Gwent Constabulary: PC Bernard Collins, Crime Prevention Officer and Inspector D. Johnson

Groundwork Caerphilly: Mr Nigel Forster

YM9 **APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN**

RESOLVED that Councillor J.M. Purnell be appointed Chairman of the Forum.

YM10 **APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIRMAN**

RESOLVED that Councillor S. Jenkins be appointed Vice Chairman of the Forum.

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Community Councillors B. Thomas and C. Thomas, Ms. C. McLean (WDA) and Mrs. P. Bayliss (Gwent Tec).

YM11 **CRIME PREVENTION INITIATIVES**

PC Bernard Collins and Inspector D. Johnson of Gwent Constabulary delivered a very interesting presentation on the expertise the police could offer in incorporating crime prevention initiatives into any project developments. They stressed however that crime prevention initiatives should be incorporated into the scheme at the design stage to minimise future crime opportunity. The officers indicated that

they would welcome the opportunity to inspect plans and offer advice, this service being offered free of charge.

PC Collins agreed to meet with planning officers on Thursday, 29th May 1997, to offer advice on the Ystrad Mynach Town Centre development.

YM12 APPRAISAL OF PUBLIC EXHIBITION - VERBAL

Officers reported on the public exhibition for the Ystrad Mynach Town Centre Enhancement scheme held in the library between 12th and 17th May 1997. During the period when the exhibition had been manned by Council staff, approximately 350/400 people had attended and about 70 questionnaires had been returned. In response to specific traffic management aspects of the scheme, the majority had supported all of the principle features, although there had been a significant number who had reservations regarding the introduction of two way traffic on Bedwlwyn Street and the relocation of the Pengam Road bus stop onto Bedwlwyn Road.

Townscape improvements and the creation of new spaces with seating, planting and feature paving were welcomed and the intention to widen the pavements to allow shoppers more room to walk safely.

Mr. G. Jones representing Ystrad Mynach & District Chamber of Trade raised concerns regarding the rear access for servicing the shops between The Beech Tree and the Non-Political Club. The rear access was very narrow and this problem would be exacerbated by the introduction of two way traffic along Bedwlwyn Street. The Chamber of Trade agreed to send comments to officers by 30th May 1997.

Officers indicated that all comments would be considered and fed into the detailed design of the scheme wherever possible. Members were informed that the recommendations for the Ystrad Mynach Town Centre Enhancement would be considered by the Planning Committee on the 12th June and it was essential therefore that any views or comments on the proposals be notified to officers as soon as possible.

YM13 UPDATE ON CAR PARK ACCESS ROAD - VERBAL

Officers reported that the access road was on schedule for completion in July. Traffic was already using the road and the school reported that there had been no problems to date. The Headmistress reported that a small number of buses would still be using Pengam Road as a pick-up point and the proposed relocation of the steps to the other side of the car park would be of benefit to pupils by reducing the walking distance through the car park.

YM14 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Forum should take place on Thursday 18th September 1997 at 4.30 p.m.

It was noted that local ward members would be informed of progress and of any significant changes to the proposals for the development of the Town Centre if any should occur prior to the meeting in September.