

CAERPHILLY COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

YSTRAD MYNACH TOWN CENTRE FORUM

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT COUNCIL OFFICES, TREDOMEN ON THURSDAY, 9TH OCTOBER 1997 AT 4.00 P.M.

PRESENT:

Councillor J.M. Purnell - Chairman

Councillors:

K.C. Cooper, B. Jones

Together with:

Forward Planning and Urban Renewal Manager, Principal Engineer (Liaison and Monitoring),
Principal Planner (Urban Renewal), Committee Services Manager.

Organisations Represented:

Ystrad Mynach and District Chamber of Trade:

Messrs. G. Jones and D. Price

Lewis Girls Comprehensive School:

Dr. S. Noakes

Gwent Constabulary:

Inspector P. Day

Groundwork Caerphilly:

Mr. Peter Williams

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor S. Jenkins, Community Councillors B. Thomas and C. Thomas, Mrs. C. McLean (W.D.A.), Mr. A. Berry and Mr. A. Webb (Ystrad Mynach and District Chamber of Trade) and G. Genner (Gwent Association of Voluntary Organisations).

MINUTES

The minutes of the last meeting held on 22nd May were received and noted.

MATTER ARISING

LEWIS GIRLS COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL

The head of the Comprehensive School referred to problems with large delivery vehicles having difficulties in negotiating the roundabout outside the school to gain entry to the school. Buses were mounting the roundabout because of problems caused by parked vehicles. Officers would investigate the problem.

TOWN CENTRE PROGRAMME

Members were informed of progress on the Ystrad Mynach Town Centre improvement scheme with Phase II due to start in the late Autumn. It would include village centre enhancements backed up by environmental scheme works carried out by Groundwork Trust over 3 years. The Police Station would be vacated in June/July 1998 and plans were to demolish this and the existing Cherry Grove site. The site would then be marketed for retail development with associated car parking. The aim would be to form a link to the town centre with the new Tesco site.

The Phase II town centre improvements included:-

- (i) traffic calming of the main shopping areas;
- (ii) widening footways to make the areas more attractive for pedestrians and to formalise on street parking and loading areas;
- (iii) environmental improvements including tree planting and seating at key locations.

GROUNDWORK SCHEMES

Mr. Peter Williams from Groundwork Trust explained that Groundwork Caerphilly were co-ordinating the community environmental network strand of the three year capital challenge bid for Ystrad Mynach. This community environmental network programme was split into four main elements to be carried out over a three year period. The elements were:-

- (i) Community route ways;
- (ii) Green streets and gateways;
- (iii) Green spaces;
- (iv) community links.

The first three elements concentrated on physical improvements while the latter was aimed at ensuring involvement of a wide cross section of the community in the programme and linking the community into this strategy. The objectives of each of the schemes were noted as follows:-

(i) Community Routeways

The provision of a safe, attractive, interconnecting network of 'green corridors' with footpath and cycleways linking the individual components of the challenge bid and other existing and proposed facilities and developments such as the railway station.

(ii) Green Streets and Gateways

To undertake strategic environmental enhancement works to primary road corridors, rail

access points and key 'Gateway' sites in order to maximise the impact and perception of the strategy area, act as a catalyst for continued regeneration beyond the area and improve the perception of the area to visitors, tourists and potential inward investors. It was anticipated that the A469 and A472 will form two of the 'Greenstreet' projects and that main roundabouts on the outskirts will form major 'Gateway' projects.

(iii) **Green Spaces**

To undertake environmental improvements to public open space or space accessible to the community in order to increase the provision of formal and informal recreational space, provide attractive green wedges between areas of development, provide Greenspaces at key nodal points as part of the integrated network of community routeways and to increase their value as resources for education and nature conservation. All works were subject to consultations and agreement with the Education and Leisure Department.

(iv) **Community Links**

To develop a range of community led initiatives, co-ordinated by Groundwork Caerphilly with the aim of maximising and realising the potential for community involvement and participation within the Community Environmental Network.