

CAERPHILLY COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

YSTRAD MYNACH TOWN CENTRE FORUM

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT TREDOMEN ON THURSDAY, 24TH SEPTEMBER 1998 AT 4.00 P.M.

PRESENT:

Councillors:

K.C. Cooper, B. Jones

REPRESENTATIVES

Gelligaer Community Council

Community Councillors B. Thomas and C. Thomas

Groundwork, Caerphilly

Messrs P. Williams and N. Forster

Gwent Association of Voluntary Organisations

Mrs G. Genner

Gwent Constabulary

PC F. Richley (Community Liaison Officer)

Lewis Girls Comprehensive School

Dr S. Noake

Welsh Development Agency

Ms C. McLean

Ystrad Mynach & District Chamber of Trade

Messrs D. Price and G. Jones

Together with:

Forward Planning and Urban Renewal Manager, Principal Environmental Health Officer, Principal Engineer (Liaison and Monitoring), Principal Engineer (Management and Regulation), Principal Planner (Urban Renewal), Research Officer, Senior Committee Services Officer

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors S. Jenkins and L.R. Rees

MINUTES

The minutes of the meetings held on 9th October 1997 were received and noted.

TOWN CENTRE ENHANCEMENTS

Consideration was given to the report of Officers which outlined progress to date, ongoing works, remaining works 1998/99 and future years 1999/2000 and each aspect was outlined in detail. The Forum also viewed the proposed art work for the railings on the area fronting the Pierhead building.

Whilst discussing the recent introduction of the two way system at High Street, concern was expressed in relation to road safety generally and specific reference was made to the roundabout at the junction of Bedlwyn Road/High Street/Pengam Road (Beech Tree Hotel) and the difficulties that certain drivers were experiencing whilst trying to negotiate the road markings.

The concerns of the members were reiterated by PC Richley who indicated that the Traffic Warden had also brought the matter to his attention along with several other issues including the nearness of the zebra crossing to the roundabout, the provision of loading bays and the width of the parking bay established in the vicinity of the library and requested that these issues should also be addressed.

It was confirmed that the roundabout is an integral feature of the scheme, is the most effective method to reduce speed and contributes to the overall objective of making the town centre a more pedestrian friendly environment. The markings at the roundabout are advisory and it is therefore not an offence to cross them whilst making the manoeuvre. The waiting bays are constructed to the required width of 1.8m and the proposals incorporate loading bays at various locations. It was indicated that research has indicated that the zebra crossing has been sited at the best possible location for pedestrians and drivers alike.

It was agreed that whilst additional signage may be required and there may be scope to reposition the roundabout, all the comments raised would be considered when aspects of traffic management are reviewed once the scheme had had the opportunity to establish itself. In the meantime, Officers will continue to monitor the situation.

Reference was also made to the proposal to site a bus stop in the vicinity of Siloh Chapel and concern was expressed that with the narrowing of the road at that location and the provision of a bus stop, the flow of traffic through the town would be seriously impeded and cause unreasonable congestion.

The representatives were unanimous that this aspect of the scheme should be reviewed as a matter of urgency and it was noted that Officers would raise the issue with the Director of Technical Services with a view to him re-examining the proposals in the light of the objections raised.

PENGAM ROAD RETAIL SITE

It was reported that discussions in relation to the retail site were ongoing and that several developers had expressed an interest in the proposals.

YSTRAD MYNACH WELSH CAPITAL CHALLENGE COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENTAL NETWORK

Details of the range of projects which have been undertaken or are in the process of being undertaken were outlined. Reference was made to the community routeway from Penallta

Rocks to Penallta Road, Ystrad Mynach Park to the railway station and to the access programme in general. The difficulties being experienced in establishing a route alongside the River Rhymney riverside walk were outlined.

It was reported that the A469/A472 Greenstreet and Royal Oak Gateway works were ongoing and that the works at Tesco and Tredomen roundabouts were almost completed. In respect of Greenspace, works have been carried out at Ystrad Mynach Park, Hengoed Institute Field and Griffiths Street play area.

The Greencare Community led projects at the Church Hall, Cefn Hengoed Baptist Chapel, Church Street woodland, Maesycwmmmer woodland, Hengoed community centre and other projects being discussed with Ystrad Mynach Hospital League of Friends and Ystrad Mynach Youth Group were noted. Ongoing schemes in respect of environmental education and business environmental partnership were also noted.
