



YSTRAD MYNACH TOWN CENTRE MANAGEMENT GROUP

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT PENALLTA HOUSE ON TUESDAY, 15TH JULY 2014 AT 2.00 P.M.

PRESENT:

Councillors:

A. Angel, M. James, J. Pritchard

Together with:

PC Carl Morgan (Gwent Police), CSO Rebecca Chilvers (Gwent Police), Mr. W. Jeff (Tredomen Allotments Association), Mr. K. Jones (Ystrad Mynach Community Partnership).

Also:

A. Highway (Town Centre Development Manager), S. Wilcox (Assistant Town Centre Manager), A. Dallimore (Team Leader – Urban Renewal & Conservation), A. Jones (Clerk).

1. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN

Mr Highway opened the meeting and asked for nominations for Chairman. Councillor Angel was nominated and seconded and all agreed. Councillor Angel accepted the position and continued with the meeting.

2. APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIRMAN

Councillor Angel asked for nominations for Vice Chairman. Councillor M James was nominated and seconded and all agreed. Councillor James accepted the position.

3. TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillors: D. Bolter, K. James, C. Mortimer (Clerk) and Inspector Bond (Gwent Police).

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

5. TO NOTE THE PREVIOUS MINUTES OF MEETING 4TH MARCH

Councillor Pritchard requested that reference to C. Mortimer be noted as the Clerk to Gelligaer Community Council.

On point 2 of previous minutes it is to be noted that some members, this should have stated members of Community Partnership.

On paragraph 5 of point 4 it should read and so the group should wait to see how things work out.

The minutes were taken as read.

6. 'A' FRAMES PROTOCOL

Mr Highway advised the group that the report was for information as this report has been brought to the group previously. If there were any concerns over the report they were to be made to Mr. Highway for him to take up with the service area.

Members expressed concern over cluttered pavements as this does cause problems from pedestrians to pass and in particular wheelchair users and parents with pushchairs.

7. CHRISTMAS TREE PLANTING

Mr Dallimore introduced himself to the group and referred the group to the previous meeting. Investigations have been carried out as to the possibility of installing a permanent Christmas tree to be situated in Siloh Square.

On 31st March the Town Centre Management Team met with the Senior Arboricultural Officer, local members were invited but it was difficult for them to attend.

The Arboricultural Officer has advised that it would not be viable for a tree to be planted in Siloh Square for the following reasons:-

- There is insufficient room within the border area for the tree roots to grow and the tree pit would be made difficult with utility runs.
- There has been recent bed planting which would suffer with lack of light.
- With regular gritting in winter months the grit washed down would pollute the soil.

The only option really would be to look for an alternative site to locate the tree. After investigations, there are only two sites that could be considered where there would be sufficient room for the tree to grow and also have access to the power supplies for the lights.

There were two possible sites located: one is in the grounds of Ysbyty Ystrad Fawr, close to the war memorial and the other site is the land to the front of the Bryn Sion Baptist Church.

Members requested that the Arboricultural Officer write his comments and findings down and Mr. Dallimore can then pass these comments back to the group.

Mr. Jones (Ystrad Mynach Community Partnership) recommended to the group the possibility of having an artificial structure depicting a tree placed in the square.

Mr. Dallimore advised that there is a ready-made process in place to commission artwork but the problem would be funding the artwork. The group would need to discuss further and look at options and funding.

Chairman requested that Mr. Dallimore continue looking into the possibility of locating the tree in the hospital grounds, as Amber skips are keen to pay for the tree and the installation.

8. ARTWORK SILOH SQUARE

Mr Dallimore presented the group with photographs of the artwork currently in Siloh Square. The group were advised that the funding for the artwork came from the Section 106 Agreement from Tesco and was a project for the Urban Renewal team but there is no funding available for the upkeep.

Over time the artwork has come into disrepair and the artist has been back on a number of occasions to repair any damage but the artwork is deteriorating further.

Mr Dallimore informed the group that this area needs to be improved and opened the subject up for discussion. Members were asked to vote on two options.

It was agreed that this area is in need of repair; the police confirmed that this area is a problem where groups gather drinking and generally hanging around. The area needs to be utilised to prevent this going on, the group discussed the possibility of it being used as an events space.

Mr. Highway advised that an events space would be a good use of the area and adds vibrancy to the town. All other towns have an events space, which, is used to promote the area and increases footfall and can be used for different groups like the police to meet people.

The first option of removing the artwork and concentrate on developing the area for events was put to the vote. This would include removing the mosaic and the dome and replacing with pavements. Members voted and 5 were in favour of this option.

The second option to look at remedial works to the mosaic in order to reserve it. Members voted and there were no votes for this option.

Mr Dallimore is to investigate and take further and look into funding.

9. CHOOSE THE HIGH STREET

Mr. Highway presented his report, which informed the group that since the Christmas campaign feedback was brought to the group. Town Centre Management has been working on a number of platforms to raise consumer choice throughout the towns.

The aim of the campaign is to increase importance of supporting local retailers by promoting their businesses and raise awareness of consumer choice.

As part of the advertising, 5,000 bags have been handed out from the Customer First offices across the County Borough; all members were provided with a bag. Information will be going out to all businesses and local banks have been contacted and provided with leaflets to provide to potential new businesses.

Advertising will continue in a number of ways such as banners, billboards, twitter, facebook and youtube.

Mr. Highway confirmed that due to the campaign a new business has been attracted to the town and has been to view a premise in the town and are awaiting any developments.

The Chair thanked Mr. Highway for his hard work and report.

10. AUDIT

Councillor James requested an update on archway and signage was raised but Mr Dallimore advised that any budget would be prioritised for the works on Siloh Square.

There were no other issues raised on the audit.

Meeting closed 2.58 p.m.

CHAIRMAN