



TOWN CENTRE MANAGEMENT GROUP

MINUTES OF THE BLACKWOOD TOWN CENTRE MANAGEMENT GROUP MEETING HELD AT THE LOUNGE, BLACKWOOD MINERS INSTITUTE, BLACKWOOD ON TUESDAY 20TH MARCH 2018 AT 3:00PM

PRESENT:

Councillors:

T. Williams, K. Etheridge, A. Farina-Childs, S. Morgan

Together with:

Town Councillors B. Baber, Z. Hammond, Mr J Hold (Clerk) & Mr D. Davies (Moose Fraternity)

Also:

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

1. TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors – C. Forehead, D. T Davies, N. Dix, Town Councillor D. Jones & Mr P. Hudson (Marketing & Events Manager)

The Chair advised the group that Community Councillor Z. Hammond was present at the meeting in place of Community Councillor Jones. The Chair asked the group if there were any objections to Z Hammond speaking at the meeting. The group agreed that Z. Hammond could participate in the meeting.

The Chair requested that thanks be recorded to Pobl for showing the group around the Red Lion site and explaining to the group the plans. The group were advised that Pobl would be happy to return to any future meetings.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made at the beginning or during the course of the meeting.

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING 19TH SEPTEMBER 2017

The minutes were taken as read.

4. UPDATE ON MATTERS RELATING TO TOWN

Mr Highway introduced the report which provided an update on matters relating to Blackwood town centre.

Members were referred to update 1 in the report relating to Clarification of Terms of Reference. Councillor Etheridge informed the group that he had requested that Town Councillors be allowed to have voting rights and asked for more input from them in the meetings. He also queried if a Town Councillor could be appointed as Chair & Vice Chair.

Councillor Morgan advised that as the meeting is a run by Caerphilly County Borough Council the appointment of Chair & Vice Chair will remain as set out in the Terms of Reference for County Borough Councillors only.

Mr Highway advised that whilst the appointment of Chair & Vice Chair is for County Councillors, the Town Councillors who are nominated to attend do have voting rights and can speak on matters which arise.

Members were referred to update 2 in the report relating to Business Report. Mr Highway presented the update and informed the group that Blackwood has the highest footfall between the five town centres and is performing well. Councillor Farina-Childs agreed that Blackwood is doing well and the town should be proud of the footfall figures.

Mr Dallimore stated that the cinema is recognised as a good anchor for the town, which brings benefits to both day and evenings throughout the town.

Mr Wilcox confirmed that he has worked closely with the developer for the new footfall cameras but they are not yet able to get any historical data.

Councillor Etheridge stated that people go to places outside of the core High Street area and use the free bus to Asda; unfortunately these people are not being picked up by the camera.

Councillor Baber asked if the car park at Summerfield could be free. Councillor Morgan advised that a review of car parks is been undertaken.

The Chair thanked all for the updates.

Members were referred to update 3 in the report relating to 'Choose the High Street' Christmas Voucher Booklet. Mr Highway presented the update and highlighted that 96% of feedback survey is positive. The group were advised that if the scheme was to run again consideration would be given to wider to marketing.

Members were referred to update 4 in the report relating to site visit to the Red Lion. The Site visit took place prior to the meeting and thanks are to be passed to Pobl.

Members were referred to update 5 in the report relating to Poundstretchers. Mr Highway advised that there was no further update since the report.

Members were referred to update 6 in the report relating to Civil Parking Enforcement. Mr Highway advised that the issue of parking has been raised in all of the Town Centre Management Group Meetings and parking enforcement remains with the police at present.

The group discussed the Council taking Civil Parking Enforcement over and Councillor Morgan confirmed that a stage 1 report had been written and Cabinet had made a decision for the Council to use its Community Safety Wardens to carry out some parking enforcement duties.

Councillor Morgan confirmed that when he received further information he will update the group at future meetings.

Members were referred to update 7 in the report relating to Cardiff Capital Region. Councillor Morgan presented the update and the group were advised that this would be good for the Borough as a whole and will create jobs and investment. As further information arises it will be passed on to the group.

Members were referred to update 8 in the report relating to Events – Beach Party. Mr Highway passed on apologies from Mr Hudson.

Mr Hold informed the group that he has met with the team organising the Beach Party event and the Town Council are looking to join in and provide a music stage as well as some additional stalls for charitable groups.

Mr Hold wished to thank Mr Hudson and the team and praised the good working relationship they have. The Town Council is looking to have a similar input into the Christmas Event.

Members were referred to update 9 in the report relating to First World War Memorial Garden. Mr Dallimore confirmed that he has looked at the funding for this project and advised that it would cost approximately £20,000.

Mr Hold confirmed that he has met with Groundwork Trust on site and would be returning for further discussion and hopefully looking to receive funding from Tesco plus circa £5,000 from the Town Council.

The Royal British Legion has expressed an interest in a memorial plaque been placed and is looking at additional funding from the Rotary Club. Further talks are to take place.

Mr Dallimore advised that he would like to be kept updated and is available for any advice.

Members were referred to update 10 in the report relating to Bicentenary Event 2020. Mr Hold confirmed that Mr Granville Hale is taking the lead and the Town Council is meeting next month to discuss this.

5. BLACKWOOD TOWN CENTRE AUDIT

Mr Highway presented the audit and the following items were raised

Litter bin fires, Mr Highway confirmed that he has spoken with Mr Adam Lang and has confirmed that this is a police issue. Mr Highway suggested the Council's CCTV may be of some assistance to the police

The Interchange Bus station toilets, Mr Highway confirmed that he has met with the new owner of the Plaza Café who has put significant investment into the business to upgrade it.

Additional pedestrian crossing point high street, Mr Highway confirmed that he had spoken with Mr Dean Smith in Traffic Management, but he was not able to attend the meeting. Councillor Morgan advised that he will bring this up in the next Engineering meeting.

There were no further issues raised.

The meeting closed at 16:05pm

CHAIR