

CAERPHILLY COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

BARGOED TOWN CENTRE MANAGEMENT GROUP

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT THE COUNCIL OFFICES, TREDOMEN ON WEDNESDAY, 12TH NOVEMBER 1997 AT 2.00 P.M.

PRESENT:

Councillor D.T. Davies - Chairman

Councillors:

H.A. Andrews, W.H. Coleman and J.G. Evans.

Together with:

Team Leader (Urban Renewal), Principal Engineer (Management and Regulations), Senior Solicitor (JR), Policy and Research Manager, Head of Policy and Central Services, Forward Planning and Urban Renewal Manager, Senior Policy Officer (AJ), Committee Services Manager.

Bargoed First Campaign:

Mr. D. Lamb

Gwent Constabulary:

Inspector P.A. Symes

Bargoed Town Council:

Mrs. H. Harris (Clerk)

Bargoed Market:

Mr. J. Cartwright (Manager)

Bargoed Chamber of Trade:

Mr. P. Collins (Treasurer)

APOLOGIES

An apology for absence was received from Councillor K.V. Reynolds.

MINUTES

The minutes of the last meeting held on 10th June 1997, copies of which had been circulated to all present were noted.

MATTERS ARISING

Progress Report On Hanbury Road Car Park Extension

It was reported that apart from some minor items the works had substantially been completed. Some outstanding railing work and painting would be completed soon. The paving blocks in the viewing area were being vandalised and used as missiles. This matter would be taken up with the contractor and the Police were asked to monitor the area. The planting and landscaping works should be finished within the next four weeks but again they had been subjected to vandalism. Despite some problems the improvements in the area had however been generally welcomed by the public.

Negotiations With Prospective Supermarket Developer

Discussions were still continuing with a prospective supermarket developer and amended plans were awaited. The site constraints were noted for any future supermarket development.

Land Acquisition

Members were informed of the anticipated funding arrangements for the next financial year. The Council's Valuer would be contacting owners for discussions on property acquisition.

Discussions were proceeding on contributions to design costs to environmental improvements.

Vacant Buildings

Enquiries of the owner of the Hanbury Cinema were still proceeding.

Some refurbishment of the Hanbury Arms was underway and it was anticipated that the premises would be open by Christmas.

Members expressed concerned of the dumping of rubbish graffiti and anti social behaviour around the Hanbury Cinema site. It was agreed that the Environmental Department would investigate and take any appropriate remedial action. Officers reported that the buildings in the area did not warrant any action under current legislation.

The Bargoed First Campaign outlined to the members the progress to date in respect of the Central Hall and thanked officers from the Council for the help given.

Commercial Improvement Grants

It was reported that four commercial improvement grants were ongoing and another would be offered this week. A total of £60,000 had been allocated out of a total mid valley budget of £100,000.

BARGOED MARKET FESTIVAL

A letter was received from the Bargoed Chamber of Trade thanking the Council for the work that went into the relaunch of the market. The Chamber were very grateful for the Council's support. Some 23 stalls were now in the market which although five down in the opening week was still a good level of occupancy. Arising out of the operation of the market some concern was expressed at the blockage by the trading vehicles on the access road by the bank making it difficult for wheel

and pushchair access. The Police were asked to investigate this matter. It was also agreed that no objections would be raised to the crime prevention caravan being placed in the car park on a market day and Officers were asked to investigate if the market could open on the Wednesday before Christmas instead of the Thursday (Christmas Day).

OTHER MATTERS

The apparently redundant Rediffusion posts would soon be removed and discussions were continuing with SWALEC on the future of the transformer site. SWALEC had agreed to offer the site to the Council but with any potential liabilities. Officers were investigating this offer.

BARGOED RETAIL ANALYSIS

Details were given of surveys carried out in the main town centres in the County Borough including Bargoed in 1994 and 1997. The survey included a street survey, telephone survey and a pedestrian flow. The results of the survey together with the conclusions were outlined to members. In noting the conclusions, comment was made on the traffic congestion in the area particularly when vehicles delivering to shops were loading and unloading and the indiscriminate use of disabled parking bays. Officers and Police were aware of the problem and an additional traffic warden had been appointed. This should ease the problems. It was reported that a survey of business premises would be carried out before Christmas.

REQUEST FOR INCREASED REPRESENTATION

The Bargoed Chamber of Trade, the Bargoed First Campaign and Bargoed Town Council had asked if their representations on the management group could be increased from one member to two members. It was agreed that this request be acceded to.