

CAERPHILLY COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

BARGOED TOWN CENTRE MANAGEMENT GROUP

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT THE COUNCIL OFFICES, TREDOMEN ON 24TH FEBRUARY 2000 AT 2.30 P.M.

PRESENT:

Councillor K.P. Viney - Chairman
Councillor Mrs G.M. Jones - Vice-Chairman

Councillors:

H.A. Andrews, D.T. Davies.

Together with:

Policy & Research Manager, Corporate Property Manager, Transportation Planning Manager, Principal Environmental Health Officer, Team Leader (Urban Renewal), Principal Planner (Policy & Specialist Services), Countryside Warden, Committee Services Officer (SK).

Bargoed Town Council:	Community Councillors Mrs E.A. Green & Mrs M. Viney
Bargoed Chamber of Trade:	Mr P. Collins
Bargoed Market:	Mr J. Cartwright
Bargoed First Campaign:	Mr D. Lamb & Mr K. Tilley
Groundwork:	Messrs N. Forster & T. Roderick

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors M.G. Parker, W. Pritchard and K.V. Reynolds, Mr I. Hill, Gwent Police and R. Tanner.

MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 11th November 1999 were confirmed as a correct record.

WELCOME

The Chairman welcomed Nigel Forster and Tim Roderick of Groundwork, Caerphilly to the meeting.

Bargoed Market

An update was given on the current situation regarding the market. Following an evaluation exercise it was anticipated that the Council would select a Preferred Operator who would be responsible for all aspects of the markets, including publicity and promotional on-site events. It was confirmed that Caerphilly was not now included in the "package", leaving only Bargoed and Pontymister.

The programme outlined in the report provided for consultation with Chambers of Trade, Ward

Members etc around May 2000 with a recommendation to Cabinet and appointment of the Preferred Operator in June. It was considered premature to enter into a full consultation exercise before detailed proposals had been evaluated. Officers had been requested to consult with the public prior to a final decision being taken.

Greater Bargoed Community Plan

Work on the Community Plan for Caerphilly was progressing and it had been agreed that an Area Forum should be established for each of the seven Community Plan areas. As previously agreed, the remit of the Town Centre Management Group would be extended to focus on the wider Community Plan Area. The Greater Bargoed Area Forum would cover Bargoed, Aberbargoed, Gilfach and Britannia.

A report was currently being prepared and would be circulated to other agencies for comment in order to produce a multi agency assessment of needs and proposals. Consideration would be given to the document by the Forum prior to public consultation. The final version of the Area Plan would be the result of a process in which all interested parties had had an opportunity to contribute.

Bargoed/Britannia Country Park

The Park was still continuing to attract off road motorcyclists despite the introduction of vehicle barriers. Officers had been working with Gwent Police to try and resolve the problem. A recent exercise had resulted in the police cautioning over 40 motorcyclists in the park and on surrounding common land. Similar operations were planned for the future.

Ongoing maintenance had included litter clearance, the clearing of blocked drainage, ditches and culverts, the felling of dangerous and windblown trees and the control of Japanese Knotweed. Engineers were currently investigating a problem at one of the ponds where the outflow from the pond was inadequate. The supplier of the wooden footbridge had been sourced and it was hoped that the bridge would be repaired in the near future. Officers were working closely with the community to identify how best the Park could be used in the future.

Concern was expressed with regard to aspects of the tree planting process. The Countryside Manager had been requested to report on areas where grass seeds had not taken.

Concern was again expressed for the safety of the public who had to cross a busy highway to access the Park at the most southerly point and it was requested that officers continue to explore possible sources of funding for a footbridge to be provided at this location.

Current Urban Renewal Projects - Bargoed Town Centre

Members were advised of progress made on Urban Renewal Schemes within Bargoed Town Centre.

The pedestrian link to the Hanbury Road car park was nearing completion and it was confirmed that the seats had been ordered. However, disappointment was expressed in relation to certain aspects of the work and the lack of maintenance. It was requested that attention be given to the planting areas and that the two trees that had died be replaced. There was also a problem with rubbish being dumped in the locality and identification signs being removed. Officers were aware of the problems and confirmed that all the issues raised would be investigated and appropriate action taken. It was hoped that the introduction of CCTV would help to identify those responsible for dumping rubbish and throwing litter over the wall onto the embankment. Reference was made to cuts which had been made to maintenance budgets.

The contract for the demolition of the remaining properties at St Gwladys Gardens had now been let with demolition scheduled for 1st March 2000. It was noted that the Swalec building at the rear

of Hanbury Road was on the open market. The WDA had confirmed that the building could be considered for a derelict land grant and Swalec had been informed accordingly. This matter was being progressed by officers.

The design work for the reintroduction of a second platform and provision of interchange facilities at Bargoed Railway Station was now complete. The contract was expected to be completed by late autumn 2000. The issue of clearing the scrubland fronting Bristol Terrace had been referred to Railtrack, the owners of the land. It was felt that the approach from the viaduct to the station was also in need of attention.

The need for a Park & Ride facility at the station was again raised. It was confirmed that Railtrack were in discussions with the tenant of the Scrap Metal Yard. However, no budget had been identified for the costs which would be involved in relocating the tenant, providing a suitable access to the site and solving the environmental problems.

CCTV

The Forum received an update on CCTV proposals. Home Office grant terms and conditions had been received on 14th February. Tenders would now be sought for a CCTV scheme of 14 cameras. The scheme was scheduled to be completed by the summer.

The meeting closed at 3.50 pm
