

## **CAERPHILLY COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

### **BARGOED TOWN CENTRE MANAGEMENT GROUP**

#### **MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT THE COUNCIL OFFICES, TREDOMEN ON WEDNESDAY, 20TH NOVEMBER 2002 AT 2.00 P.M.**

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**PRESENT:**

Councillor K.P. Viney - Chairman

**Councillors:**

Community Councillors Mrs. E.A. Green, Mr. J. Ricci (Bargoed Chamber of Trade), Mr. I. Hill (Bargoed Chamber of Trade), Mr. D. Lamb (Neighbourhood Watch Forum).

**Together with:**

E. Gibbs (Principal Engineer), M. Howland (Team Leader/Urban Renewal), B. Morgan (Senior Planner/Urban Renewal), J.C. Rogers (Senior Solicitor), D. Churchward (Network Contracting Services), I. Galsworthy, D. Price (Capita Gwent Consultancy) and G. George (Committee Services Manager).

#### **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mrs. G. Jones, K.V. Reynolds, W. Pritchard, J. Taylor and Mrs. M. Viney and P Collins.

- \* Approximately half an hour into the meeting Councillor D.T. Davies arrived and made a statement about procedural matters relating to the conduct of the previous meeting, which had been the substance of correspondence between himself and the Chief Executive. He also referred to other matters, which were being processed, and until these had been resolved he indicated that did not wish to take any part in this or future meetings of the management group. He then left the meeting.

#### **MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 13th March 2002 were approved as a correct record.

#### **INVITATION TO JOIN THE ASSOCIATION OF TOWN CENTRE MANAGEMENT**

The views of the Management Group had been sought on the proposals to establish a Welsh Chapter of the Association of Town Centre Management, a national organisation offering benefits associated with research, advocacy and services to members.

The Council had now joined the National Association. There had been no recent meeting of the South Wales group as yet. In relation to the idea for a full time town centre manager the matter would be reported to the next meeting when the report from Shared Intelligence had been published. It was hoped that this report would add support to the idea of town centre managers.

## **BARGOED TOWN CENTRE ACTION PLAN**

Officers gave a progress report on the action plan. The three main changes proposed were:-

- The suggestion of a new central railway station had now been discounted because of technical difficulties with the site and the existing railway station had been refurbished.
- The bus station would be relocated to the north of the town nearer to the rail station.
- The proposed site for retail development could now be expanded to allow a larger more commercially attractive and marketable site. The option on the present site had expired at the end of September.

Proposals for the new layout were on display at the meeting and representatives from Capita Gwent Consultancy outlined them to members. The new developments would probably require fill from the reclaimed colliery site and it was hoped to contain lorry movements within the site. Funding sources and timescales were being investigated.

A public exhibition was planned in the New Year and copies of the draft Bargoed Town Centre Action Plan were circulated. Comments from group members were invited by 4th December.

## **HANBURY ROAD PHASE 2**

Officers gave an update on Phase 1 of the scheme.

Phase 2 would include altering the junction at the Pierhead Buildings and creating a one-way system. Tenders had been returned and discussions were ongoing with the successful tenderer (Network Contracting Services). Welsh Development Agency approval was being sought. Disruption would be kept to a minimum especially over the Christmas period.

## **OTHER TOWN CENTRE INITIATIVES**

All members felt it was important to keep the momentum going. The proposal to improve the rear lane for loading and unloading had been examined and appeared to be expensive for the benefits likely to be achieved. Approval of the Artwork at Bargoed Northern Gateway, based on original children's drawings, had been resubmitted for Artlot approval and a decision was expected shortly.

Planning application for the bypass would be resubmitted in March 2003 and the target date for construction was still 2005 although this could be affected if there was a public inquiry or if funding was not available. Junction designs aspects were being examined, including Pengam Road and Gilfach Street.

## **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting would be held early in the New Year, on a date to be agreed and to coincide with the public exhibition.

The meeting closed at 3.00 p.m.