

# **CAERPHILLY COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

## **BARGOED TOWN CENTRE MANAGEMENT GROUP**

### **MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT THE COUNCIL OFFICES, TREDOMEN ON THURSDAY, 5TH JUNE 2003 AT 3.00 P.M.**

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#### **PRESENT:**

Councillor K.P. Viney - Chairman

#### **Councillors:**

H.A. Andrews and J. Taylor; Community Councillors, Mrs. A. Green and Mrs. M. Viney; Mr. P. Collins and Mr. I. Hill (Bargoed Chamber of Trade), Mr. D. Lamb (Upper Rhymney Valley Forum), Inspector A. Webber (Gwent Police), Mrs. D. Ingram-Jones and Mrs L. James -Ingram

#### **Together with:**

P. Bear (Section Head - Corporate Property), R. Campbell (Senior Assistant Engineer - Traffic Management), D. Price (Gwent Consultancy), M. Howland (Team Leader - Urban Renewal), B. Morgan (Senior Planner, Urban Renewal), S. Kauczok (Committee Services Officer)

#### **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors D.T. Davies, Mrs. G.M. Jones and K.V. Reynolds.

#### **MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 20th November 2002 were confirmed as a correct record.

#### **BARGOED TOWN CENTRE ACTION PLAN**

It was reported that the public exhibition which had taken place on 13th and 14th March 2003 had been well received and attended by over 400 members of the public/representatives of various organisations. The comments received on the Town Centre Action Plan at the exhibition were being evaluated to allow the plan to be formally adopted as supplementary planning guidance.

It was pointed out that since the failure of the Local Regeneration Funding (LRF) bid, discussions had taken place with the WDA and in principal support at a level of 80% funding had been agreed for projects in Rhymney and Bargoed. The Urban Renewal Programme for 2003/04 could therefore potentially be fully restored if the 20% match funding towards the WDA grant can be found. A report to this effect was being presented to Cabinet on 10<sup>th</sup> June 2003.

## HANBURY ROAD PHASE 2

Plans of the area encompassing High Street and Hanbury Road, incorporating the following proposals, were displayed at the meeting:-

- A one way traffic system at the top end of the town.
- Improvements to footways and street lighting.
- Renewal of highway at Upper High Street.
- Provision of 3 pedestrian crossings, including a replacement outside the Spar Shop and a new crossing opposite the library.
- Pedestrianisation of part of the road.
- Widening of Bristol Terrace.

It was reported that observations had been received from a local trader about the proposed crossing outside the Spar Shop and that arrangements had been made for officers to meet the trader concerned to further discuss the proposals.

Concern was expressed about the exit from St Gwladys Car Park and it was requested whether anything could be done in the short term to improve visibility for motorists.

Police Inspector Webber indicated that he had also received representations about the sight line looking left to Bristol Terrace and agreed that visibility at this spot is poor. Mr Campbell, Traffic Management, agreed to investigate.

A Member asked if the concrete lighting post in the middle of the Hanbury Road Baptist Chapel grounds could be moved to a more suitable place when the new lighting was erected. It was confirmed that this would be actioned.

Discussion then ensued on the proposals to widen footways and the implications for parking bays and 'stop and shop' places.

Officers were asked whether local traders had been approached individually about the proposed new crossings. Although the aim of the public exhibition had been to give residents and traders the opportunity to view the proposals for the Town, officers indicated that an individual approach could be made, in addition, if necessary. Mr Collins indicated that the Chamber of Trade would be happy to work with the Council in this respect.

Reference was then made to the problems caused by parked cars along the main street and the issue of loading and unloading.

Mr Price, Gwent Consultancy, indicated that the High Street is not wide enough for three vehicles at present and that the widening of the pavements would result in less space on the highway. Concern was expressed, in particular, about the stretch from Barclays Bank to the Police Station.

It was suggested that the widening of the pavements be phased e.g. work from the library to the steps could be used as a test case. It was noted, however, that it would be preferable to obtain one price for the whole contract. Mr Price indicated that it would be difficult and more expensive for the work to be undertaken as a phased programme.

It was agreed that Mark Howland would discuss the feasibility of this further with the WDA. He would also arrange for the Chamber of Trade and the Police to be provided with a timetable of works.

A Member asked whether improvements could be made to the sight line from West Street to the A469 by removal of a pillar at the end of Hanbury Road. Mark Howland agreed to investigate the matter. Bryan Morgan would address the issue raised by Mr Lamb about the effect of the proposed one way system on the gritting programme.

## **STREET FURNITURE**

Bryan Morgan referred to correspondence he had received from Inspector Webber about the feasibility of removing the seating outside Cleopatra's Night Club, opposite a Fish and Chip shop, to discourage people congregating in that area late at night/in the early hours of the morning. Inspector Webber referred to several incidents of anti social behaviour in that area.

It was pointed out that the seating was used by the public during the day and concern was expressed that the problem would be transferred to another part of the town if the seating was relocated. Officers agreed to further investigate the matter.

Bryan Morgan confirmed that officers had been in touch with the owner of the demolished property at the corner of Hanbury Road.

## **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

### **Bargoed Market**

Phil Bear, Section Head, Corporate Property, updated the Group on the position with Bargoed Market and on his most recent discussions with Mr Gill, the Market Operator.

It was noted that the introduction of a combined market/car boot sale had not been successful and interest in the market continued to decline.

The feasibility of relocating the market to another site in the area had again been raised. Suggestions for possible sites included the top of the Emporium car park and St Gwladys car park. It was reported that the Highway's Division preferred alternative was the southern car park.

The Group discussed other ways of attracting more interest in the market, including the idea of a "Theme Week" and Craft/Farmers Fayres.

It was agreed that Mr Collins, Chamber of Trade, would set up a meeting with appropriate Council officers and Mr Gill as soon as possible to discuss the issues raised.

### **Arts Project**

Mark Howland reported that the Arts Council had agreed to fund the school arts project and arrangements had been made to meet on 23rd June to discuss how the artist should progress. Representatives of the Town Centre Management Group, together with the two schools and appropriate officers would be involved in the process.

The meeting closed at 4.20 p.m.