

# **CAERPHILLY COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

## **BARGOED TOWN CENTRE MANAGEMENT GROUP**

### **MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT THE COUNCIL OFFICES, TREDOMEN ON MONDAY, 13TH OCTOBER 2003 AT 2.00 P.M.**

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#### **PRESENT:**

Councillor K.P. Viney - Chairman

Councillors H.A. Andrews and D.T. Davies; Community Councillors Mrs M. Viney and Mrs E.A. Green; Mr I. Hill (Bargoed Chamber of Trade); Mr R. Morris (Neighbourhood Watch, Bargoed); Mr D. Lamb (Upper Rhymney Valley Forum)

#### **Together with:**

Mark Howland (Team Leader - Urban Renewal), Bryan Morgan (Senior Planner - Urban Renewal), Adrian Crabb (Property Division), Robert Campbell (Traffic Management), Dave Price (Gwent Consultancy), S.M. Kauczok (Committee Services Officer)

#### **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mrs G.M. Jones, K.V. Reynolds and J. Taylor.

#### **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest made at the meeting.

#### **MINUTES**

RESOLVED that the following minutes be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

Bargoed Town Centre Management Group - 5th June 2003.

#### **TOWN CENTRE REDEVELOPMENT PHASE 2**

Bryan Morgan, Senior Planner Urban Renewal, confirmed that Phase 1 of the scheme had been completed and the next phase was due to commence on 20<sup>th</sup> October 2003, ceasing temporarily at the end of November in time for the Christmas period.

Dave Price, Gwent Consultancy, outlined works underway at the bottom end of the town and to the footway and steps at Upper High Street.

Officers were in discussion with the Agency and Engineering Division regarding the availability of finance to resurface the highway.

A query was raised about the angle of the proposed footpath near the library. It was explained that there would be little adjustment made to the existing footpath as it is quite shallow and cannot be raised. However, there could be occasions when vehicles needed to mount the footpath and kerbs would be provided for protection.

Discussion ensued on the feasibility of developing vacant buildings. It was reported that Economic Development were looking at possible opportunities and the WDA were investing a lot in town centre improvements. Mr Morgan advised that there are currently 5/6 commercial improvement grant schemes in progress in the town.

Concern was raised about the appearance of vacant shop premises in the High Street and officers agreed to examine whether any action could be taken in this respect.

## **BARGOED MARKET**

Members were advised that the new market operator, Steve Andrews, was due to commence duties on 30<sup>th</sup> October 2003. It was reported that Mr Andrews is very keen to make a success of the market and subsequently attract more people into the town.

A draft agreement had been drawn up between the Council and Mr Andrews and the Council had granted a sum of £1600 towards advertising costs etc. in the first year.

## **TRAFFIC REGULATION ORDERS**

Robert Campbell, Traffic Management, updated the Group on the traffic regulation order proposals for the town:-

- A no right turn ban had been added from High Street into Upper High Street as specifically requested by the Police.

The Town Centre Management Group is opposed to this proposal.

- A new disabled bay had been proposed to replace the existing police bay in Cross Street.
- Two sections of loading only bays in the am/limited waiting, 15 minutes in the pm, on the east side of Hanbury Road. One of 31 metres centred on CC Sports and the other of 23 metres centred opposite the CAB. Another two sections of loading/limited waiting bays outside and opposite 'B' Wise – these are the only areas where two way traffic will be impeded.
- Bus stop clearways – 7 am to 11 pm (9 am to 11 pm outside the Plasnewydd Public House).
- Three new zebra crossings – by the Library, the steps and Barclays Bank.
- Remainder of the High Street will be shown as double yellow lines with a peak period loading ban.
- Formalisation of the other disabled bays in the car park access road.

Copies of the proposals were given to Mr Hill in order that he could seek the views of the Chamber of Trade.

Discussion ensued on the problem caused by parked vehicles outside the Chemist/Takeaway premises and Mr Campbell agreed to investigate the feasibility of parking restrictions being imposed at this location.

## **Visibility at Junction of St Gwladys Car Park/Bristol Terrace**

Mr Campbell summarised the findings of surveys that had been undertaken following a complaint of poor visibility when driving out of St Gwladys Car Park into Bristol Terrace.

The surveys conclude that *"It is clear that the car park's boundary/retaining wall does impede visibly to the left for drivers exiting the car park and is not an ideal situation. .... However, the retaining wall was and is still necessary. The majority of drivers exiting the car park did so with caution, treating it as a junction. ....The light traffic flows, the generally very low speeds on Bristol Terrace and the excellent safety record do not appear to constitute a danger to car park users and there is very little action in traffic management terms the Council can do to improve this car park access/egress. I consider that no further action be taken."*

Reference was made to the point raised at a previous meeting relating to the sight line from West Street to the A469 which is obstructed by a pillar at the end of Hanbury Road.

Mr Howland agreed to investigate this matter and report back.

## **45 HANBURY ROAD**

Officers updated the Group on their investigations.

It was reported that a letter had been sent to the owner of the property who is now living abroad. No response had been received to the correspondence.

Officers were requested to continue to pursue the matter and to arrange for the site to be tidied up and made safe.

## **ART WORK**

Mr Howland advised that the re-tenders were due to be returned on 30th October 2003.

A revised date of 16th January 2004 had been agreed for the school concert.

The meeting closed at 3.20 p.m.