

CAERPHILLY COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

BARGOED TOWN CENTRE MANAGEMENT GROUP

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT THE COUNCIL OFFICES, TREDOMEN ON WEDNESDAY, 10TH DECEMBER 2003 AT 2.00 P.M.

PRESENT:

Councillor K.P. Viney - Chairman

Councillor J. Taylor, Community Councillor Mrs E.A. Green, Mr I. Hill and Mr P. Collins (Bargoed Chamber of Trade), Mr D. Lamb (Upper Rhymney Valley Forum), PS243 Alan Morgan (Bargoed Police)

Together with:

Bryan Morgan (Senior Planner Urban Renewal), Adrian Crabb (Property Division), Edgar Gibbs (Principal Officer - Traffic Management), Robert Campbell (Traffic Management), Dave Price (Gwent Capita), S. Kauczok (Committee Services Officer)

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors H.A. Andrews, D.T. Davies, Mrs G.M. Jones and K.V. Reynolds. Community Councillor Mrs M. Viney, Mr D. Carter, Mr J. Pritchard and Mr R. Morris.

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

2. WELCOME

The Chairman welcomed Sergeant Alan Morgan to the meeting.

3. MINUTES

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

4. Matters arising

Mr Hill referred to a recent survey he had observed taking place in the car park. Mr Campbell indicated that he would pass on the results of the survey as soon as it had been finalised. Mr Price advised that he believed the survey related to parking in the town in general.

Reference was made to the upturn in the market operation since the new market operator had taken over.

Mr Campbell was asked to investigate the report of illegal trading in the car park on a Saturday and to report back to the Management Group.

5. UPDATE ON PHASE 2

It was reported that the Chamber of Trade had now been consulted upon the revised plans and Mr Collins had reported back to Bryan Morgan and Robert Campbell on its behalf.

The Management Group received an update on Phase 2 from Dave Price and Bryan Morgan.

It was reported that the contractors had commenced work and it was proposed that a brief press release be prepared outlining the work scheduled for January 2004.

Bryan Morgan indicated that he would endeavour to keep all interested parties up to date with progress of the scheme. He advised that he had referred the complaint of dust nuisance during disc cutting to the contractors.

6. TRAFFIC ORDERS

Bob Campbell outlined the changes that had been made to the traffic order proposals.

Mr Collins confirmed that the Chamber of Trade had seen the revised proposals and expressed doubts about the effectiveness of the loading/unloading restrictions.

Mr Campbell indicated that the Authority would monitor the situation and make any necessary changes as quickly as possible.

Sergeant Morgan indicated that there would be police objections to the proposed siting of the disabled parking bay on the basis that it would result in the loss of an area which is currently used to accommodate a large Police vehicle and that the spot is not suitable for disabled parking due to the steepness of the hill.

Mr Price referred to the Vehicle Prohibition Order relating to the area between the lane and Barclays Bank and the intention to consult further with traders who currently use the lane.

7. DESIGN STUDY TIMETABLE AND UPDATE

Bryan Morgan advised that he had completed the brief for consultants. An advertisement inviting interest on a national basis was being prepared for release in mid January 2004.

8. COMMERCIAL IMPROVEMENT GRANT CONDITIONS

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

It was reported that discussions had been held with the Legal Department about the feasibility of adding a condition to all CIG awards that the shop must remain in operation for a certain period after the grant had been awarded.

It was agreed to provide members of the Management Group with details of the eligibility criteria for CIG aid.

9. LIGHTING COLUMNS AND LITTER BINS

The Management Group was updated on progress with provision of lighting columns and litter bins.

It was reported that it had been agreed to purchase recycling bins for town centres.

10. VACANT SITE AT CORNER OF CAPEL STREET/HANBURY ROAD

It was reported that the Authority is serving a 14 day notice commencing 14th December 2003 to clear the site.

Mr Morgan was still awaiting a response from the owner of the premises about the feasibility of the Authority purchasing the site.

11. STONE PIER BY PUBLIC HOUSE

Officers had written to the owners about the feasibility of the stone pier being removed/realigned to improve visibility at the junction.

12. UPDATE ON MAIN SCHEME

Mr Price updated the Management Group on progress.

It was reported that the objection period for the Side Road Order had been extended and there are indications that a public inquiry will be required.

The proposals for the bus station had been revamped and the views of the local ward members would be sought on the revised scheme.

Mr Price advised that he was in discussion with representatives of the new school in Pengam regarding problems with pedestrian access at the northern end of the site. The southern end was not part of the scheme. A report was being prepared on the integration of the retail plateau with the town centre.

13. BY PASS

It was reported that representatives of the Council and Capita Gwent Consultancy were meeting representatives of the WAG in January 2004 to discuss progress.

It was agreed that the Chamber of Trade would write to the WAG regarding the feasibility of the project being brought forward.

14. ARTWORK

It was reported that Mark Howland who was responsible for the artwork project was currently on leave. Bryan Morgan indicated that he would provide the Group with an update in the near future.

The meeting closed at 2.50 p.m.