



## **BARGOED TOWN CENTRE MANAGEMENT GROUP**

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT TREDOMEN  
ON WEDNESDAY, 15TH SEPTEMBER 2004 AT 2.30 P.M.**

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PRESENT:

Councillor D.T. Davies - Chairman  
Councillor D.G. Carter - Vice-Chairman

Councillors:

H.A. Andrews, A.G. Higgs and Mrs. D. Price

Together with:

Mr. P. Collins and Mr. I. Hill (Bargoed Chamber of Trade), Community Councillors I. Hughes and L. Harding (Bargoed Town Council)

R. Tanner (Strategic Planning and Urban Renewal Manager), B. Morgan (Senior Planner - Urban Renewal), R. Campbell (Senior Assistant Engineer), E. Gibbs (Principal Officer - Traffic Management), A. Crabb (Facilities Officer), H.C. Morgan (Senior Committee Services Officer)

By Invitation: Mr. John Cooper - Representing the Residents Association

### **1. APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors E.K. Griffiths and K.V. Reynolds.

### **2. Mr. John Cooper**

The Chairman welcomed Mr. John Cooper to his first meeting of the Management Group and it was agreed that he be invited to attend future meetings.

### **3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

### **4. MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 28th July 2004 were approved as a correct record.

## **MATTERS ARISING**

### **5. Membership of the Town Centre Management Group (minute no. 6)**

Concerns were expressed that an invitation had been sent to Heddlu Gwent Police and that no representative was in attendance. It was agreed that a letter be sent to invite a representative to attend future meetings of the Town Centre Management Group.

### **6. Town Centre Manager Post (minute no. 10)**

Mr. R. Tanner, Strategic Planning and Urban Renewal Manager, reported that Mr. Andrew Highway has been appointed to the post of Town Centre Manager although a start date has yet to be determined. It was confirmed that the post, which is funded by the Council would cover three towns within the county borough.

### **7. Hospital Site (minute no. 11)**

It was noted that in accordance with the decision taken at the last meeting, a letter had been sent to the Health Authority on behalf of the Management Group drawing attention to the potential of the Aberbargoed plateau for the new hospital site. Unfortunately, the Local Health Board have ruled out the site at Bargoed and are looking at sites at Ystrad Mynach and Pontllanfraith (although the exact location has yet to be determined).

### **8. BARGOED DESIGN STUDY**

An update was given on the progress of the study and Members were pleased to note that the WDA have indicated that it will support the study (80%).

Mr. B. Morgan, Senior Planner - Urban Renewal, reported that meetings are to be held with the appointed consultants to progress the study and anticipated that a draft would be available by 1st November 2004. It was noted that the consultants would be meeting members of the Management Group on an individual basis to seek their views and it was agreed that representatives be invited to the next meeting scheduled for 27th October 2004.

### **9. BARGOED TOWN CENTRE - PHASE 2**

Reference was made to the moratorium on the approval of WDA funding for this scheme and Mr. R. Tanner indicated that it would not be considered until November. He pointed out however that provision has been made within the urban renewal budget to enable the scheme to proceed in the event that WDA funding is not forthcoming.

Mr. B. Morgan reported that in view of amendments to the scheme the tender document has to be revised and that this is being undertaken by Network Contracting Services and Capita Gwent at the moment.

A query was raised at the anticipated timescale to undertake the works and Mr. Tanner sought the views of the Group as to whether in view of the nature of the works to be undertaken and the resultant vehicular/pedestrian disruptions on Hanbury Road (for a period of 6-8 weeks) they should be carried out prior to Christmas.

It was the general consensus of those present that the works should be carried out in the New Year.

Mr. R. Campbell, Assistant Engineer, reported that the traffic order for the High Street and Hanbury Road is now in place and would be implemented as soon as works commence on site.

## **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

### **10. PUBLIC DISORDER ISSUES**

Councillor D.G. Carter referred to the problems being experienced by residents in the vicinity of The Square, Bargoed in relation of anti-social behaviour (vehicular movements around the bus station, disorderly conduct, vandalism, noise nuisance etc.) and indicated that the Police did not appear to be active enough in eradicating the problem.

Mr. John Cooper reiterated the comments made and referred to specific incidents over the past months which have caused distress to the local residents. He indicated that youths congregate on The Square after school and they are replaced later in the evening by those leaving nearby clubs and pubs. Youths are also using the bus station to race their cars around and to park their vehicles - with loud music emanating from open windows. This nuisance eventually radiates away from The Square in the early hours of the morning and continues in the Park.

Mr. Cooper indicated that a petition has been forwarded to both County Borough Council and the Police detailing the problems and requesting ASBOS be introduced. He reported that he has received a message from Inspector Childs indicating that officers will patrol the area in the evenings and requesting that he keep him informed if there are any changes as a result of this exercise. It was accepted that the success of this initiative will be dependent on the Police manpower available at the time.

It was accepted that in order to address the problems being experienced a multi-agency approach is required and agreed that a joint meeting should be convened with the county borough, Gwent Police, the Town Council and Chamber of Trade as soon as possible.

During the course of the discussion on this matter, reference was made to the three CCTV cameras on The Square and it was agreed that an Operative should also be invited to the meeting.

It was agreed that Officers from Environmental Services be invited to the next meeting to discuss this and environmental issues generally.

### **11. ENVIRONMENTAL INCIDENT**

Reference was made to an incident at The Square last week and it was noted that the Environmental Team had visited the area and effected a clear-up. Concerns were expressed at the possible health hazards in the area and a report was requested from the Environmental Health Department on any future proposals they may have for the area.

During discussion on this item reference was made to the litter created by take-away establishments, problems associated with chewing gum on pavements and the ineffective litter bins in that area. In noting that the first two issues would need to be addressed by the Environmental Health Department, a request was made that officers investigate the feasibility of installing larger bins similar to those sited elsewhere in the Town Centre.

### **12. FLORAL DISPLAYS 2005**

A request was made that assistance be provided to enhance the floral displays for 2005 and that the areas to both entrances to the Town (St. Gwladys Gardens and the Old Mill/Bridge Street) be included.

It was pointed out that a contract has been let for St. Gwladys Gardens in order that the area is be maintained on a regular basis.

**13. ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES**

Reference was made to the general appearance of the town and it was felt that a general clean up is required. Suggestions made included the cleansing of the steps, removal of weeds in the car parks, painting of the railings and the provision of litter bins). Councillor Davies suggested that Officers should visit the area (with the Chamber of Trade) in order that such areas can be highlighted.

Reference was also made to the vehicular exit from the Kwik Save car park and a query was raised as to whether a mirror could be provided to assist those turning at that point. Mr. R. Campbell pointed out that mirrors are not permitted in the County Borough but that he would examine the access from the car park.

Following a query regarding the obliteration of the sign by trees on the road below the station, Mr. R. Campbell indicated that a request has already been made that the trees be pruned.

Discussions ensued on the general appearance of several of the properties in the area (rear gardens) ineffective downpipes.

The representatives of the Chamber of Trade indicated that this could be due partly to absentee landlords and indicated that they are not in a position to insist that works are carried out. It was noted that unless they were perceived to be a danger to the public, the County Borough would not be able to carry out the works in default.

Mr. Hill indicated that he would place an item on the agenda for their next Chamber of Trade meeting in order to highlight the concerns raised by the Management Group and to request that routine maintenance is undertaken as a matter of course.

**14. BARGOED BY-PASS**

A request was made for an update in respect of the by-pass and Members were advised that Officers continue to work with the Assembly to ensure its completion by 2006. It was pointed out that the transport bid was submitted in August and the outcome would be known in December. In noting that the finance is required to take the scheme to contract stage, Members requested that details of the design be presented to the next meeting.

**15. BARGOED INSTITUTE**

It was noted that discussions are to be held with the owner of the premises and details of proposals for its future use will be presented to the next meeting.

**16. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

It was noted that the next meeting of the Town Centre Management Group has been scheduled for 27th October 2004.

The Chairman requested that those present give advance notice of any items they wish to place on the Agenda in order that arrangements can be made for the relevant Officers to be present.