



## **BARGOED TOWN CENTRE MANAGEMENT GROUP**

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT THE COUNCIL OFFICES, TREDOMEN  
ON WEDNESDAY, 9TH MARCH 2005 AT 2.30 PM**

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PRESENT:

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

Councillors:

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

Together with:

Community Councillors I. Hughes and L. Harding, Messrs M. Barry, P. Collins and I. Hill (Bargoed Chamber of Trade), Mr J. Cooper (local resident), Inspector R. Doidge (Heddlu Gwent Police).

R. Tanner (Strategic Planning and Urban Renewal Manager), I. MacVicar (Business Development Officer), A. Highway (Town Centre Development Manager), A. Crabb (Facilities Officer), D. Price & I. Galsworthy (Capita Symonds), R. Campbell & L. Williams (Traffic Management, CCBC), R. Murphy (Communities First Coordinator) & S.M. Kauczok (Committee Services Officer).

C. Dauncey (WDA) and representatives of Camlin Longsdale, Consultants.

### **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence had been received from Ceri Evans and Maria Godfrey, Environmental Services.

### **1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

### **2. MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 20th December 2004 were approved as a correct record.

## **MATTERS ARISING**

### **3. By-Pass**

It was reported that the Council intended to seek ideas from local residents for an appropriate name for the road, the construction of which was due to commence in 2006. Members of the Group were invited to refer any suggestions for names to Andrew Highway.

### **4. CCTV**

Reference was made to the proposal to arrange a follow up visit to the CCTV Control Centre – officers were asked to pursue.

### **5. Resurfacing of Highway**

Concern was raised that an electrical cable had been left exposed during resurfacing work to the A469, Bargoed and that Western Power had not been able to give a firm date when they could attend to the problem.

### **6. DESIGN STUDY**

Representatives of Camlin Longsdale attended the meeting to present their initial ideas for the town centre scheme. They invited those present to view and comment on the design plans which had been displayed at the meeting.

Members of the Management Group were complimentary about the proposals, in particular reference was made to the opportunity for commercial premises to overlook the country park.

It was reported that the first phase of the scheme was intended to coincide with the construction of the by-pass and that the timescale for the development of the town centre would depend on inward investment. Clair Dauncey, WDA, stated that it was likely to be a 10-15 year programme and that there would need to be appropriate infrastructure in place in order to attract private sector investment.

The consultants advised that they had had discussions with retailers and leisure operators who might be interested in investing in the town centre. The type of retailer that might be attracted to invest in the town would depend on which scheme was selected - a different set of retailers would opt for location in the High Street as opposed to those that would wish to trade from the plateau site. Attention would be paid to the needs of existing traders whilst trying to attract new investors to the town. The consultants were proposing a mix of the best elements of the two schemes.

Discussions had taken place with cinema operators and family pub/restaurant businesses with a view to attracting a scheme similar to that at Nantgarw to Bargoed. However, it had emerged that a similar development was proposed for Merthyr in the near future and it was therefore unlikely that it would be considered viable to develop the same in Bargoed. A family pub/restaurant business was more likely to be achievable.

Discussion ensued on the opportunities for attracting investment into the town centre, the future marketing of the town and the potential for raising its profile through the Heads of the Valley planned programme.

The Management Group thanked the consultants for their presentation and looked forward to receiving their report in due course.

**7. “BEST KEBABS”**

Apologies for absence had been received from Ceri Evans and Maria Godfrey, Environmental Services.

Inspector Doidge advised that a meeting to discuss issues relating to the premises, had taken place on 18th February 2005 between PC Stephen Williams and Ceri Evans, Environmental Services. Ceri Evans, Environmental Services, had relayed a message via Andrew Highway to advise that as soon as the minutes of that meeting had been written up and agreed with PC Williams, the matter would be progressed further.

**8. COMMERCIAL IMPROVEMENT GRANT UPDATE**

Bryan Morgan gave an update on progress with properties that had recently received commercial improvement grants.

It was confirmed that a budget had been made available for the new financial year commencing April 2005.

**9. BARGOED MARKET**

Mr Crabb advised that the market operator was making arrangements for a car boot sale to be held at the market place in another attempt to boost trade. Mr Crabb agreed to seek further information regarding the timing of the event.

A continental style market which had proved popular in many other towns around the country would be held in Bargoed next weekend.

Mr Highway expressed his appreciation of the support received from the Chamber of Trade in helping to publicise the event. The Chamber of Trade thanked Mr Highway for all his efforts in helping to boost interest in the Town.

**10. LITTER**

Concerns were raised in relation to litter and dog fouling in and around the town centre and information was sought on enforcement and the level of fines that could be imposed in this respect.

Andrew Highway advised that he had recently met with the Cleansing Manager and had requested that litter bins in the centre be steam cleaned and black bags replaced more frequently. Arrangements were being made to site a dog fouling bin in a discrete area of the town and for the community safety wardens to visit and offer poop scoop bags to dog walkers. It was hoped that these measures would be in place before the next meeting of the Town Centre Management Group.

Reference was also made to the capacity of the litter bins some of which were often overflowing with discarded waste.

**11. BARGOED PARK AND RIDE**

Councillor Carter advised that residents of Deri and Pontlottyn had contacted him regarding park and ride facilities at Bargoed station.

Mr Tanner indicated that he would discuss the feasibility of this being included in the study with the Engineering Division and report back to the next meeting.

**12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

- Mr Collins drew attention to the standard of work undertaken to the top of the steps where a new crossing was being provided.
- It was agreed that the agenda for future meetings of the Town Centre Management Group would include an update on activities in the Town from the Town Centre Manager.
- Bob Campbell, Traffic Management, advised that it had since been decided to provide a crossing in the vicinity of St Gwladys school. The work was scheduled to be carried out during the Easter holidays.

Mr Campbell was asked to investigate the need for a crossing on the A469, in the vicinity of the Capel Public House.

**13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

It was confirmed that the next meeting would be held on Wednesday, 20th April 2005 at 2.30 pm at the Business and Technology Centre, Tredomen Business Park.

The meeting closed at 4.25 pm.