



BARGOED TOWN CENTRE MANAGEMENT GROUP

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT THE COUNCIL OFFICES, TREDOMEN
ON WEDNESDAY, 20TH APRIL 2005 AT 2.30 P.M.**

PRESENT:

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

Councillors:

A.G. Higgs, Mrs. D. Price

Together with:

Community Councillor L. Harding, Messrs M. Barry, P. Collins and I. Hill (Bargoed Chamber of Trade); Mr J. Cooper (local resident); PC Steve Williams (CADRO).

B. Morgan (Urban Renewal), A. Highway (Town Centre Development Manager), A. Crabb (Facilities Officer), R. Campbell & L. Williams (Traffic Management, CCBC), M. Godfrey (Environmental Health Officer), C. Adams (Assistant Contract Manager), R. Murphy (Communities First Coordinator) & S.M. Kauczok (Committee Services Officer).

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Inspector R. Doidge, Ian MacVicar, Roger Tanner, Community Councillor I. Hughes and Councillor H.A. Andrews MBE.

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

2. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 9th March 2005 were approved as a correct record.

3. MATTERS ARISING

- **CCTV**

Officers were requested to pursue the follow up visit to the CCTV Control Centre.

- **Best Kebabs**

PC Williams (CADRO) indicated that he had not yet received the minutes of the meeting held with Ceri Evans, Environmental Services. Maria Godfrey, Environmental Services, indicated that she would pursue this on Ceri's return from holiday.

Mrs. Godfrey referred to a recent meeting with residents of Cardiff Road, Wood Street etc. to discuss matters relating to Best Kebabs. It was intended to install noise monitoring equipment in the property of one of the local residents in the near future and a late night Saturday visit to the area was also planned.

- **Bargoed Market**

Adrian Crabb, Facilities Officer, confirmed that the market operator had indicated that he was planning to hold a car boot sale at the market site in the near future.

Mr. Highway, Town Centre Development Manager, indicated that he was trying to persuade Tourism to stage another "Continental Market" in the town in the near future following the success of the first. The operator however, had stated that it would not be financially viable for them to re-visit the area unless Caerphilly town was included in the proposals. Mr. Highway advised that he was disappointed with the reaction of the operator and that he was in discussions with operators of similar style markets to try and encourage them to come to Bargoed.

Mr. Collins advised that the Chamber of Trade supported this type of market. It was pointed out that if Caerphilly was included in the 'package' it was more likely to get the largest share of custom with 2/3 markets being held over a short period of time. The point was made therefore that Bargoed should have the opportunity of hosting the first of these markets.

- **Litter**

Bryan Morgan, Urban Renewal, advised that the cost to replace the bins at Hanbury Square had been identified. Officers would liaise with the Cleansing Team to arrange for their replacement.

Mr. Highway advised that enforcement officers were active in the town and an enforcement notice in respect of dog fouling had been issued shortly after the last meeting.

- **Park and Ride**

Mr. Morgan advised that Roger Tanner, Urban Renewal, had met with engineers to discuss this issue and a meeting was being held in the near future to further consider the site.

- **Pedestrian crossings**

Concerns were raised in relation to highway safety at the sites of the proposed two new crossings.

Chris Adams, NCS, confirmed that orders had been placed with WPD to undertake the lighting connections at the crossings. He would seek advice as to whether the painting of the lines, which was the Council's responsibility, could be undertaken before the lights had been connected.

A suggestion was made that notices be erected at these locations advising that the crossings were not yet in use.

In view of the strong concerns expressed in relation to highway safety officers were requested to investigate ways of resolving the issue as a matter of urgency.

Mr. Campbell advised that work to the crossing at St Gwladys School had been completed during the Easter holidays.

- **Lay-by**

Concerns were raised in connection with the design of the lay-by, which was narrower than had been originally planned and was causing concern for highway safety.

Bryan Morgan advised that arrangements were in hand for a visit to the site to assess the problems.

It was agreed that local ward members, representatives of the Chamber of Trade, Gwent Police and Andrew Highway would be invited to attend the site visit.

4. UPDATE FROM THE TOWN CENTRE DEVELOPMENT MANAGER

Mr. Highway, Town Centre Development Manager, updated the Management Group on activities in the town centres. He advised that he had recently visited retailers and a clear trade pattern was emerging across the county borough. Locally, traders had been having a difficult time but recently there had been signs of improvement within the clothing sector.

Mr. Highway indicated that he had been able to talk to retailers on a one to one basis about the works being undertaken in the town centre and to explain the reasons for some of the problems. He had also been in discussion with some of the major high street stores regarding possible future investment in the town, post relief road.

Reference was made to refurbishment works at Kwik Save and the future of the Boots store on the High Street

The Chamber of Trade was congratulated on its efforts in progressing work to the down pipes at the rear of commercial premises in the town.

5. DESIGN STUDY

Bryan Morgan, Urban Renewal, gave an update on progress with the design study.

Officers had received a timetable from the Consultants and were expecting the final draft by 3rd May 2005.

A provisional date of 19-21 May 2005 had been set for a public exhibition in the Library and a special meeting of the Town Centre Management Group would be arranged if necessary.

Mr. Collins asked if arrangements could be made for the Chamber of Trade to be given a preview of the proposals prior to the exhibition.

6. RE-NAMING OF BARGOED RELIEF ROAD

Copies of a list of 20 names, which had been proposed by members of the public for the new road, were tabled and read out at the meeting.

Whilst there was support expressed at the meeting for “Britannia Way” which had been suggested at a previous meeting, it was agreed that there should be as much consultation with the local community on the naming of the new road as possible. Reference was made to the possibility of a local radio station holding a competition, further articles in the local press, liaison with local schools and the opportunity to invite suggestions at the public exhibition.

The Chair advised that he was meeting presenters of a local radio station at the weekend and would report back.

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- Mr. Hill indicated that the Rotary Club of Bargoed wished to celebrate its links with the town in various ways to mark its 50th anniversary. Bryan Morgan offered to discuss with Mr. Hill.
- Councillor Carter gave an update on arrangements for the “Big Bed”. Weekly meetings were being held in connection with the event, which it was anticipated would attract a larger number of visitors this year. Councillor Carter advised that funding for the event was being sought through the Council’s Tourism section.
- A member asked whether it would be possible for new street furniture, including floral hanging baskets, to be installed in the new lay-by area. Mr. Morgan advised that street furniture would be renewed as part of Phase 2 of the town centre scheme.
- It was suggested that an officer from Leisure Services be invited to attend the next meeting of the Group with regard to hanging basket provision. However, it was pointed out that the need for regular watering of the baskets might be an issue.

8. CHAIRMAN

Councillor Tudor Davies advised that he would be standing down as Chairman of the Bargoed Town Centre Management Group in view of his role as Chair of the Town Centre Improvement Group, which encompassed the 3 town centres in the county borough.

Following the Council’s AGM in May there would therefore be a need to appoint a new Chairman to the Bargoed Town Centre Management Group.

The meeting closed at 3.45 pm.