



BARGOED TOWN CENTRE MANAGEMENT GROUP

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT THE COUNCIL OFFICES, TREDOMEN
ON WEDNESDAY, 29TH JUNE 2005 AT 2.30 P.M.**

PRESENT:

Councillors:

H.A. Andrews, D.G. Carter, D.T. Davies & Mrs. D. Price.

Together with:

Community Councillors L. Harding & I. Hughes; Messrs M. Barry, P. Collins and I. Hill (Bargoed Chamber of Trade); PC Steve Williams (CADRO).

I. MacVicar (Business Development Officer), A. Highway (Town Centre Development Officer), R. Tanner & B. Morgan (Urban Renewal), E. Gibbs & R. Campbell (Traffic Management), L. Tams (Communities First), H. Williams (Greater Bargoed Partnership), S.M. Kauczok (Committee Services Officer).

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor A. Higgs, Inspector R. Doidge, John Cooper and Richard Murphy.

1. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR

Councillor D.G. Carter was appointed as Chair of the Town Centre Management Group TCMG for the ensuing year.

2. APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIR

Councillors Mrs D. Price was appointed Vice Chair of the TCMG for the ensuing year.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

4. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 20th April 2005 were approved as a correct record.

5. MATTERS ARISING

- **Best Kebabs**

PC Williams advised that in consultation with the Environment Services Division, surveys had been undertaken in the area and it was not felt that further investigation was necessary at the present time. Mr Cooper, local resident, had been updated and the situation would continue to be monitored.

- **Market**

Andrew Highway advised that arrangements had been for another Continental Market to visit the County Borough. The market would visit Bargoed on Friday, 8th July 2005.

- **Bins**

Bryan Morgan advised that a survey of the town had been undertaken and officers had identified where bins needed to be replaced.

- **Park & Ride**

Mr Tanner advised that this was being incorporated into the design study.

- **Renaming of Relief Road**

It was reported that three suggestions for a name for the road were being put forward to Cabinet for consideration.

Members expressed disappointment that there had not been wider consultation with school children.

- **Rotary Club**

The Management Group requested that its congratulations be conveyed to the Rotary Club Bargoed on its 50th anniversary. Appreciation of all the charitable work undertaken by the Club over the years was expressed.

- **“Big Bed”**

Laura Tams (Communities First) and Helen Williams (Greater Bargoed Partnership) attended the meeting to update the Group on arrangements for the “Big Bed” carnival which was taking place in Bargoed on 13th August 2005.

Details were received of the various events taking place, the transport and parking arrangements, publicity for the event and the donations that had been secured towards staging the carnival.

Appreciation was expressed of the work that had been undertaken by all those involved in organising the event.

- **Street Furniture etc**

It was reported that an order for new street furniture in the Spar Square was due to be processed.

There had been some progress with hanging basket provision this year.

Attention was drawn to the area by the Library which required weeding. Mr Highway indicated that he had reported this matter and had been advised that the area had been sprayed.

Concern was also raised in relation to the condition of the steps outside the Police Station and to a collapsed fence near the Library's disabled car parking area.

6. TOWN CENTRE DESIGN STUDY

Bryan Morgan advised that public turn out at the public exhibition in the town had been quite pleasing and that comments received had been processed. Minor modifications had since been made to the study.

Particular concern had been expressed in relation to the proposed route of the new link road which would involve the demolition of the church hall. An alternative solution had subsequently been investigated and the revised proposals would be incorporated in an amended plan, available in July. A report would come forward outlining the mechanism for the study and funding proposals.

Discussion took place on the possible options available and it was agreed to await the officers' further proposals.

Mr Hill, Chamber of Trade, enquired whether the design study plans could be put on display in an appropriate location eg. empty shop, during the "Big Bed".

Following consideration it was agreed in principle that the design study could be displayed in a suitable location in Bargoed for public inspection during the "Big Bed".

The need to convey to the public that the proposals were not set in concrete was pointed out.

Reference was made to empty shop premises in the town and again, to 45 Hanbury Road.

A report on the proposals for the town centre would be presented to Cabinet at the end of July/August and once Council's decision was clarified, representations could be made to the WAG for funding.

Mr Tanner advised that he was hoping to secure a regeneration package which would enable CPO proceedings to be instigated.

7. ST GWLADYS GARDENS

Mr Highway advised that plans had been submitted to the Parks Department for planting the area. The changes to the area would incur increased maintenance costs which would need to be included in estimates for the next financial year.

A member of the Group requested that the problem of weeds in this area be brought to the attention of John Ridgwell, Parks Services.

8. PROVISION OF HANGING BASKETS

It was agreed that there had been some improvement to hanging basket provision in the town centre this year. Reference was made in particular to the floral displays at the Capel Hotel and it was requested that a letter be sent to the owner of the hotel complimenting him on the displays.

9. NEW LAY-BY

It was reported that a meeting had taken place with traders in connection with the new lay by outside the Spar shop. The lay by was completed quite quickly following the meeting and was understood to be quite successful.

Mr Morgan indicated that a safety audit had been undertaken and he was of the opinion that concerns would be raised with regard to the 'blind spot' on/at ??????????. PC Williams confirmed that problems were being experienced with the blind spot.

Mr Morgan asked PC Williams for details of the complaints to be sent to him.

It was requested that the results of the safety audit be reported to the next meeting of the TCMG. Mr Morgan agreed to invite Capita Gwent to report to the next meeting.

10. TOWN CENTRE MANAGER'S REPORT

Andrew Highway presented an update on activities in the town centre:-

- He advised that three new premises had opened in the town centre and a new shop front had been created. In addition, Kwik Save had carried out internal refurbishments.
- The Area Forum Committee had agreed to allow funds to be released for banners which would arrive towards the end of the summer. Funds had also been released for the scheme at Spar Square. Appreciation was expressed of the Partnership's support.
- Reference was made to the hard work of the Bargoed Big Bed Committee in organising this year's event.
- Following an approach by Shadow Property, Mr Highway had visited Heath Park to view the model railway facilities there. He had subsequently passed on photographs he had taken of the facilities to the society.
- Mr Highway advised that he was in discussion with "Fourth Street Traffic" and would discuss possible opportunities with Mark Barry after the meeting.
- Reference was made to "Retail News" containing items of interest for local traders.

The Chair thanked Mr Highway for the work he was undertaking in the town centre.

Reference was made to the need to ensure that Bargoed had a presence at meetings of the Heads of the Valley Initiative and it was agreed that Roger Tanner would present an update on the terms of reference/objectives of the HOV Initiative at the next meeting of the Bargoed TCMG.

11. REPORT OF THE CHAMBER OF TRADE

The TCMG received an update on the Chamber of Trade's activities in relation to the "Big Bed" event together with their proposals for Christmas activities.

12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- Edgar Gibbs was requested to arrange for an update on progress with the relief road to be presented to future meetings of the TCMG.
- Mark Barry referred to discussions taking place with “Fourth Street Traffic” in connection with a promotional video for the town.

13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, 24th August 2005 at 2.30 pm.

The meeting closed at 3.45 pm.