



BARGOED TOWN CENTRE MANAGEMENT GROUP

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT THE COUNCIL OFFICES, TREDOMEN
ON WEDNESDAY, 30TH NOVEMBER AT 2.30 P.M.

PRESENT:

Councillor D.G. Carter - Chairman

Councillors:

D.T. Davies, A.G. Higgs

Together with:

Community Councillor L. Harding, Messrs I. Hill & P. Collins (Bargoed Chamber of Trade);
Mr J. Cooper (local resident), Inspector R. Doidge (Gwent Police).

I. MacVicar (Business Development Officer); A.Highway (Town Centre Development
Manager); B. Morgan (Project Officer, Urban Renewal); D. Churchward (Network
Management Engineer); R. Campbell & R. Hurn (Traffic Management); L. Tams (Community
First Support Officer); S.M. Kauczok (Committee Services Officer).

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillors H.A. Andrew, E.K. Griffiths,
Mrs D. Price and K.V. Reynolds; Community Councillor I. Hughes; Mr M. Barry, Mr R. Murphy,
Mr R. Tanner and Mr A. Crabb.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

2. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 14th September 2005 were confirmed as a correct record.

Matters arising from the Minutes

- **Minute No 3 – Best Kebabs.**
Members of the Management Group placed on record their appreciation of the efforts of all those who had been involved with this issue.
- **Minute No. 4 – Town Centre Regeneration Study.**
Bryan Morgan, Urban Renewal, updated the Management Group on progress. He confirmed that each of the recommendations contained in the report of the town centre

study had been approved by the Scrutiny Committee and Cabinet as a basis for the future regeneration of Bargoed Town Centre.

A letter had been sent to the WAG Minister for Economic Development and transportation requesting an urgent meeting to discuss funding issues and a response was awaited.

A letter had been drafted and would be sent to the owners of the properties to be acquired and demolished under the scheme, informing them of the proposals.

A working group was examining alternative locations for the Council's library.

Engineers had costed the plateau at £3m.

Property Services were dealing with No 45 Hanbury Road and No 11 High Street.

A new action plan for the town centre was being prepared for implementation after Christmas.

- **Minute No. 5 – St Gwladys Gardens.**

Clarification was sought on whether a meeting had been held with the Town Council and Chamber of Trade as suggested at the last meeting.

Ian MacVicar, Business Development Officer, advised that the scheme was being coordinated by the Town Centre Improvement Group.

- **Minute No. 7**

Laura Tams, Communities First, advised that the lantern parade would take place on 17th December 2005 at 4.00 p.m.

PROPOSED PARKING RESTRICTIONS – BARGOED AND GILFACH

Rachel Hurn, Transportation, outlined the proposed parking restrictions for Bargoed and Gilfach.

The proposals were currently subject to consultation and the relevant documents had been sent to interested parties. The formal consultation period would close after Christmas.

Concern was raised in relation to highway safety at the junction with Vicarage Lane and to parked cars causing difficulties for drivers turning the corner into East View. Bob Campbell, Engineering Division, indicated that he would investigate these issues.

Clarification was sought on the definition of continual lines and reference was made to the poor condition of some within the town centre. Inspector Doidge commented that the condition of the lines at Wingfield Street, in particular, could be open to challenge.

Mr Campbell agreed to investigate the matter.

RELIEF ROAD

Dave Churchward, Engineering Division, updated the Management Group on progress: -

- Woolworth had stated that they are prepared to withdraw their objection to the CPO. Following written confirmation of the objection, WAG would commence the process confirming the CPO, which would take approximately 6 months.

- The pre-qualification process for tendering was complete and CCBC had confirmed the list of 5 contractors who would be invited to tender i.e.

Costain Ltd
Alfred McAlpine Capital Projects Ltd
Wrekin Construction Co Ltd.
Hotchtief Griffiths Joint Venture
Edmund Nuttall Ltd

- The WAG announcement on commitment to fund the scheme for construction was expected late December 2005.
- Capita were continuing with the detailed design and the preparation of the contract documentation.
- The invitation of tenders was programmed for early February 2005.
- The award of the contract and commencement was programmed for July 2006.
- Pre contract site clearance works by NCS were programmed to start in January 2006. This would involve tree felling and vegetation/knotweed clearance for ecological reasons.
- Property Services had held an initial meeting with the owners of Power Cuts to discuss the purchase of the property by agreement.

REPORT OF THE TOWN CENTRE MANAGER

Bargoed Post Office

The report advised that the Post Office is a main Post Office providing a Post Office Counter service to the residents of Bargoed and surrounding area. In 2002 the owner carried out internal and external refurbishment of the property, making various modifications and offering new services to the customer. This work was partly funded by the WDA and Caerphilly CBC under a Commercial Improvement Grant.

The retention of the Post Office within the Town Centre was seen as vital to the community and a key factor in the town's economic fabric. Without the Post Office there was strong reason to believe that visitor numbers to the town would be adversely affected.

HTV Programme

Mr Highway explained the background to the making of the television programme which was due to be shown on HTV on 6th December 2005.

Marketing Strategy

Mr Highway advised that officers were looking at ways of marketing the town in the future.

REPORT OF THE CHAMBER OF TRADE

Mr Hill asked whether the community could be informed of timescales for the various developments that were taking place in the town.

Mr Churchward, Engineering Division, advised that he would be reporting to the Management Group as the scheme progressed and he would expect the contractor, when appointed, to provide regular newsletters and/or hold resident meetings to keep the local community up to date with developments.

Mr Collins informed the Group that arrangements for this year's Christmas activities were on schedule.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was agreed that the next meeting would be held on a date and time to be agreed in February 2006.

The meeting closed at 3.30 pm.