



BARGOED TOWN CENTRE MANAGEMENT GROUP

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT THE COUNCIL OFFICES, TREDOMEN
ON WEDNESDAY, 22ND MARCH 2006 AT 2.00 P.M.**

PRESENT:

Councillor David Carter - Chairman
Councillor Mrs Dianne Price - Vice-Chairman

Councillors:

Tudor Davies, Alan Higgs

Together with:

Inspector R. Doidge (Gwent Police), Mr John Cooper (local resident); Messrs Ivan Hill, Dave Collins and Peter Collins (Bargoed Chamber of Trade); Community Councillors Lindsey Harding and Idris Hughes.

Ian MacVicar (Business Development Officer), Andrew Highway (Town Centre Development Officer), Bryan Morgan (Project Officer, Urban Renewal), Dave Churchward (Network Management Engineer), Edgar Gibbs (Principal Officer, Traffic Management), Bob Campbell (Senior Assistant Engineer), Paul Hotchkiss (Registration/Licensing Officer), John Ridgewell (Parks Business Development Manager), Matthew Bevan (Communities First).

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillors Harry Andrews MBE and Keith Reynolds; Lee Evans (Highway Infrastructure Manager); Rosemary Mathews (Communications Manager); Adrian Crabb (Facilities Officer); Richard Murphy (Communities First); Roger Tanner (Strategic Planning & Urban Renewal Manager).

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

3. MINUTES

The minutes of the meetings held on 30th November 2005 and 16th January 2006 were approved as a correct record.

MATTERS ARISING

- Clarification was sought on whether the study carried out by Camlin Lonsdale would be available for public inspection. Bryan Morgan, Urban Renewal, confirmed that the study had been finalised and was open to public inspection. He would provide the CoT representatives with copies of the study.
- It was confirmed that the plateau referred to in Minute No. 4 was the retail plateau at the rear of the library.
- Clarification was sought on progress with the preparation of the Action Plan. Mr Morgan advised that it was being progressed as a high priority.
- There had been no further news in relation to Nos 45 Hanbury Road and 11 High Street, Bargoed. Officers agreed to pursue.
- Clarification was sought on start dates and timescales for the various developments taking place in the town. Further information on this would be provided under item 5 on the agenda.
- The CoT queried whether any of the local businesses had approached the Council for assistance with their business rates following the incident at Station Road. The Head of Corporate Finance would be asked to respond to the Chamber of Trade.

4. GREATER BARGOED COMMUNITY REGENERATION SCHEME

Mr Dave Churchward (Network Management Engineer) provided an update on progress.

- Woolworths had written to WAG withdrawing their objection. WAG had commenced the process of confirming the CPOs and Side Road Orders. It was anticipated that this process would be completed to coincide with the letting of the contract.
- Tenders had been invited in early March. Wrekin had withdrawn and had been replaced on the list by Mowlem who were next placed in the pre-qualification process.
- The Welsh Assembly Government had confirmed their commitment to fund the commencement of the scheme this year.
- The award of the contract was expected to be made in August 2006 with work commencing on site early Autumn.
- Pre contract site clearance works by Caerphilly NCS had commenced in order that vegetation/knotweed clearance could be undertaken prior to the letting of the main contract. Ecological works would also be undertaken prior to the main contract works in order that any protected species could be translocated to suitable habitats.

The Chamber of Trade queried how local people and other interested parties would be kept up to date with developments taking place in the town centre. Mr Churchward advised that a programme of works would be devised as soon as the tenders were returned.

It was suggested that the successful tenderer be invited to attend a meeting of the Management Group, at the appropriate time, to outline the programme of works. Additionally, they could attend future meetings to give an update on progress. The Council's own "Newslines" could also be used to keep local people up to date with progress of the scheme.

5. SPECIMEN LICENSED PREMISES HOURS

The Council's Registration/Licensing Officer, Mr Paul Hotchkiss, provided details of the operating hours for a cross section of licensed premises in Bargoed with reference to the various public houses and clubs that had sought extended hours under the new licensing laws and to the premises serving hot food & drink which now had to apply for a licence.

Mr Hotchkiss briefly outlined the provisions of the Licensing Act and explained the application process. He pointed out that each application was considered on its merits and was subject to extensive consultation.

The Act provided certain rights of appeal to the magistrates court for those who felt aggrieved by decisions of the Licensing Authority. The right of appeal was not only afforded to applicants where their application had been rejected or granted subject to conditions, but also to those who had made representations.

Inspector Doidge gave a brief overview of the situation in Bargoed since the new licensing laws had come into force.

The Management Group discussed the effect of the legislation on the town centre.

6. STATION ROAD, BARGOED

Mr Lee Evans, Highway Infrastructure Manager, was unable to attend the meeting due to a prior commitment. He had, however, advised that he was still awaiting the submission of all invoices before finalising the costs, estimated to be in the region of £50,000.

Further discussions were to be held with the landowner but there were no plans for further long term closures of the road. There would, however, be a one day closure on a Sunday within the month to allow contractors of Network Rail to cut back and fell, if necessary, trees on the railway embankment.

7. INFORMATION REPORTS

- **Town Centre Management Groups – Revised Terms of Reference**

The report set out the revised Terms of Reference for the Town Centre Management Groups. It was explained that the changes had been made to ensure that the TCMGs contributed more effectively to the objectives set out in the Regeneration Programme "The Smart Alternative".

It was noted that it would be the responsibility of the Business Development Officer/Town Centre Development Manager to set the agenda for meetings in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Regeneration and the respective TCMG chairman.

In future, there would be no provision for 'Any other Business' on the agenda. Any member of the TCMG wishing for an item to be placed on the agenda should approach the Business Development Officer/Town Centre Development Manager.

- **New Town Centre Branding**

Copies of the logo which had been designed for the brand were circulated at the meeting.

Initially, the brand and logo would be used in the Authority's "Newslines" and "Business News" publications containing articles highlighting the new developments in the town. The logo would also form the basis of a design displayed on 30 lamp post banners throughout the town.

- **Bargoed TCIG Audit**

Details of the ongoing audit carried out by the TCIG on the town centres were received and welcomed by the TCMG.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was agreed that the next meeting of the TCMG would be held on Wednesday, 7th June 2006 at 2.00 p.m.

The meeting closed at 3.40 p.m.