



BARGOED TOWN CENTRE MANAGEMENT GROUP

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT THE COUNCIL OFFICES, TREDOMEN
ON WEDNESDAY, 7TH JUNE 2006 AT 2.00 P.M.**

PRESENT:

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

Councillors:

Tudor Davies

Together with

Messrs Ivan Hill, Dave Collins and Peter Collins (Bargoed Chamber of Trade), PC Steve Williams (CADRO Bargoed PS); Mr John Cooper (local resident); Community Councillor Karen Halvey.

Ian MacVicar (Business Development Officer), Andrew Highway (Town Centre Development Officer), Lee Evans (Highway Infrastructure Manager), Mark James (Senior Valuer), Roger Tanner (Strategic Planning & Urban Renewal Manager), Lucy O'Connor (Project Officer, Heads of the Valleys Initiative), Edgar Gibbs (Principal Officer, Traffic Management), Bob Campbell (Senior Assistant Engineer), Sharon Kauczok (Committee Services Officer).

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Harry Andrews MBE, Alan Higgs, Keith Griffiths and Keith Reynolds. Community Councillors Idris Hughes and Lyndsey Harding, Inspector Robert Doidge (Gwent Police), Bryan Morgan (Project Officer, Urban Renewal), Paul Hotchkiss (Licensing/Registration Officer), John Ridgewell (Parks Business Development Manager) and Adrian Crabb (Property Services).

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made at the meeting.

2. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 22nd March 2006 were confirmed as a correct record.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

3. Bargoed Town Centre Action Plan

Mr Tanner introduced Lucy O'Connor, Heads of the Valley Project Officer, to the Management Group. He advised that one of Lucy's key tasks would be to drive the Bargoed Town Centre Action Plan forward.

4. Station Road, Bargoed

Mr Evans briefed the Management Group on the action being taken to try and recover the costs incurred in rectifying the problems caused by the collapsed wall at Station Road. It was noted that the property in question was currently for sale.

5. Greater Bargoed Community Regeneration Scheme

Mr Evans advised that the tender period had been extended to 23rd June 2006. It was intended that the contract would be awarded in August and the work started early autumn. No further information was available on the timetable for the scheme until the contract had been awarded and the successful tenderer had drawn up a programme of works. The Management Group would be kept up to date with developments as they progressed.

6. HEADS OF THE VALLEY FUNDING

Mr Tanner briefed the Management Group on the funding arrangements. He advised that a sum of £1m would be allocated to each of the Authorities on a themed basis, over a 2-year period. Landscaping had been selected as the theme for this year and town centres had been chosen for the second year. Cabinet had taken the decision that Bargoed Town Centre would be promoted in year 2.

Mr Tanner suggested various ways in which the £1m could be used to complement developments in the town centre and invited Members of the Management Group to put forward their ideas.

Mr Peter Collins, Chamber of Trade, stated that his main concern centred upon the CPO's.

Mr Tanner advised that officers had written to the owners of the properties concerned outlining the Authority's redevelopment proposals. One major landowner had indicated that he wished to sell to a body with CPO powers. However, the problem lay in funding the purchase of these properties which it was estimated would be more than £1m.

The Cabinet Member for Regeneration stated that he believed that there would be £2m for each Local Authority from the HOV. Mr Tanner indicated that he was aware that there was a general desire to distribute between the Local Authorities with half the sum being put towards a theme i.e. landscaping in the first year and the other half towards generic themes across the LA's. He would, however, seek further clarification on the issue of the HOV funding.

7. BARGOED ACTION PLAN

This matter had been covered earlier under 'Matters arising from the Minutes'.

8. ST. GWLADYS GARDENS

In the absence of Mr John Ridgewell who had tendered his apologies for the meeting, Mr MacVicar provided a brief update on progress.

It was reported that the benches had been installed and the bins had been provided.

The construction and planting of the flowerbed had commenced. However, the arrival of the exotic plants had been delayed.

9. 45 HANBURY ROAD

Mr Tanner circulated illustrative plans of 2 possible development options for the site and sought the Management Group's views.

The key difference between the 2 options lay in the provision of a seating area in option 2. Whilst it was agreed that the provision of seats would act as a welcome resting place for some residents and visitors to the town, concern was expressed that it could encourage an element of anti social behaviour. Mr Tanner suggested that the scheme could be a combination of the 2 options.

Several members of the Management Group confirmed that residents of Cross Street and possibly, Capel Street, would be strongly opposed to the provision of seating at this location having regard to the potential for it to attract large numbers of youths.

It was left that the Cabinet Member and local ward member, Councillor Tudor Davies, would liaise with a community councillor who resided in one of the streets affected with a view to canvassing the views of the local residents on the options available.

The matter would not be progressed until the views of the local residents had been obtained.

10. 11 HIGH STREET

The Chairman welcomed Mr Mark James, Senior Valuer CCBC, to the meeting and invited him to update the Management Group on the situation regarding No. 11 High Street, Bargoed.

Mr James advised that he had agreed a purchase price for the property with the owner's agent and was awaiting written confirmation. He reported that in addition to the purchase price, the owner would also be entitled to a disturbance allowance, taking into account the physical costs to re-locate and possible long and short term loss of profits etc. The final sum could not be determined until an alternative property had been secured.

11. PENGAM LIGHTS

Mr Edgar Gibbs, Principal Officer, Traffic Management, briefed the Group on the 3 options that had been examined in relation to concerns raised about traffic movement at Pengam lights.

Mr Gibbs advised that detailed consideration had been given to the matter and officer's had concluded that there was nothing that could be done in the short term to alleviate the situation, having regard to the availability of resources. He considered, however, that the introduction of Angel Way in the future would alter traffic patterns and therefore alleviate the situation.

Strong concerns were expressed by members of the Management Group from a risk factor point of view and the feasibility of providing a temporary filter system on a trial basis was

raised.

It was left that Mr Gibbs would report back on the costs and practicalities of a temporary filter system being installed on a trial basis at this location.

PC Williams offered the assistance of the Police Traffic Division in trying to solve the problem.

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

12. Town Centre Improvement Group – Environmental Audit

It was reported that the CoT had been consulted on the audit for Bargoed TC.

13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next scheduled meeting was 4th October 2006.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 3.00 p.m. and thanked those present for their contributions.