



BARGOED TOWN CENTRE MANAGEMENT GROUP

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT THE BUSINESS & TECHNOLOGY CENTRE TREDOMEN ON WEDNESDAY 4TH OCTOBER 2006 AT 2.30 PM

PRESENT:

Councillor D. Carter - Chairman
Councillor Mrs D. Price - Vice-Chairman

Councillors:

H.A. Andrews, D.T. Davies, A.G. Higgs,

Together with:

Messrs I. Hill, P. Collins and D. Collins (Bargoed Chamber of Trade), Mrs P. Cooper (Local Resident), Messrs I. Hughes, H. Farrant and Mrs J. Bissex (Bargoed Town Council).

D. Churchward (Principal Engineer), B.Morgan (Project Officer- Urban Renewal), L.O' Connor (Project Officer, Heads of the Valleys Initiative), I. MacVicar (Business Development Officer), A. Highway (Town Centre Development Officer, S. Beacham (Technical Assistant – Parks Development), R. Murphy (Communities First Co-ordinator) and D. Phillips (Committee Services Officer).

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor K.V.Reynolds, L.Harding (Bargoed Town Council) and R.Tanner (Strategic Planning & Urban Renewal Manager).

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made at the start of the meeting.

2. MINUTES

Subject to the inclusion of L.Harding and I.Hughes (Bargoed Town Council) included in the attendees and A.Highway (Town Centre Development Officer) in the list of the apologies the minutes were received and noted.

It was agreed however that option 1 and option 2 of the environmental scheme for Land at 45 Hanbury Road not be discounted but considered with option 3 when it is available.

Mr Morgan, Project Officer- Urban Renewal, reported that the 3rd option would be available in approximately 10 working days. Following a choice of option, detailed designs will be drawn and the scheme completed prior to 31st March 2007.

It was agreed that a Special Management Group meeting be convened when appropriate (at the Bargoed Town Council Offices) with local residents present to further discuss all options.

3. MINUTES 7TH JUNE 2006

The minutes of the meeting held on 7th June 2006 were confirmed as a correct record.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

4. Station Road , Bargoed (minute no 4)

It was noted a charge would be put on the property for costs incurred when the wall collapsed at Station Road. Figures are however still being sought from the statutory bodies.

5. Head of the Valleys Funding (minute no 6)

It was reported that although having been informed verbally a confirmation had not yet been received from the Welsh Assembly Government regarding funding for the regeneration of the town. When this confirmation is received firm negotiations for property acquisition can be started.

6. 11 High Street (minute no 10)

Mr Churchward, Principal Engineer, reported that he had recently met with the owner of the premises and his agent and was optimistic that relocation to another property could be shortly be agreed.

7. Pengam Lights (minute no 11)

Strong concerns were raised again regarding traffic movement around Pengam lights. Members accepted that future schemes may have an impact on this area but considered that the present situation should not be ignored.

It was agreed therefore that the following concern be referred to an appropriate committee:

“The Bargoed Town Management Committee request the council to urgently review the traffic position at Pengam lights”.

8. Angel Way

Mr Churchward was pleased to announce that the Welsh Assembly Government had now confirmed their financial support for the Greater Bargoed Regeneration Project which included the creation of a new road scheme, called Angel Way. A few issues will need to be clarified with the preferred bidder prior to the contract being finalised within the next few weeks.

The majority of statutory legal procedures have been completed satisfactory and periods of objection to the scheme have elapsed without comment apart from 2 or 3 plots that will need to be re-served because the original notices were not received. The six-week objection period will shortly expire and to date no objections have been received.

As reported earlier, meetings have taken place with Powercuts hairdressers and their agents with the authority doing all it can to co-operate with the owners in relocating them to another part of the town. The authority will attempt to work with the successful contractor in re-programming the works in this area to allow time for the refurbishment of the new premises.

The preferred bidder has intimated that they regard liaison with the public a high priority and a call-in centre has been suggested along with an exhibition and a project web site.

Mr Churchward reported that advance works have been going for some time. These include mitigation measures for the removal of reptiles and amphibians and diversion of services in the vicinity of the tie-ins.

Finally, Mr Churchward added that when a detailed programme of works was available, a special meeting of the Management Group would be convened in Bargoed.

The Chairman and members of the Management Group thanked Mr Churchward and his staff for all their work with the scheme. Thanks was also given to Councillor Andrews who had campaigned long and hard for the road scheme to proceed.

It was agreed that maximum publicity should be given to the Regeneration Project and it was suggested that an article could be placed in the council's publication of 'Newslines' when the contracts have finally been signed. It was also suggested that the possibility of using a vacant shop premises in the town centre for an exhibition should be explored and Mr Morgan, Project Officer – Urban Renewal indicated that he would investigate this.

9. BARGOED RETAIL PLATEAU

Mr Morgan reported that drilling for site investigations had begun at the south car park and acquisitions of properties in Hanbury Road is expected to commence shortly following confirmation of funding from the Heads of the Valleys initiative. Outside valuers will be engaged and positive preliminary discussions and negotiations have been held with the property owners.

It was agreed that an officer from property be invited to the next meeting to give an update on progress.

It was noted that because of the other schemes, work has not yet progressed on the Bargoed Town Centre Action Plan. It was agreed however that this would be a regular item on the agenda.

10. TOURISM REPORT

Mr Murphy, Communities First Co-ordinator, gave a report on two successful events that had been held in Bargoed.

11. Bargoed Big Bed

This event was attended by over 150 people during the course of the day and provisional work is already under way looking into the potential for funding for next years event.

It was reported that the main stage would be in the shape of a bed for next year's event as there were problems holding a bed race.

Thanks were given to all the volunteers and sponsors who made the day a success.

12. Bargoed Open Air Cinema Screening

Over 700 people attended the showing of Ice Age 2 and again there was tremendous feedback from the public on the event.

The event was jointly organised between the Tourism section of the council and the Greater Bargoed Community Partnership.

Mr Highway reported that in view of the success, the possibility of staging another film would be explored in the future.

Finally it was noted that arrangements are being made with the local Chamber of Trade for a Christmas Lantern Parade and Laser show.

ITEMS FROM BARGOED TOWN COUNCIL

13. Re-use of the Old Court Building, Hanbury Road

Town Councillor Mr Hughes explained that while attempting to find new premises for the Citizen Advice Bureaux, the Town Council had discussed the future use of the former Magistrates Court Building. The building is presently used by the Police as a gymnasium and it was felt that such a building of quality and character should have a more important use within the community.

Unfortunately Inspector Doidge was not present and could not respond to the concern although Mr Highway indicated that he would arrange a meeting with the Inspector and Mr Morgan to discuss this issue.

14. Floral Display at St Gwladys' Gardens

It was reported that the Bargoed Town Council had requested that they sponsor a flower bed depicting their motif at St Gwladys Gardens.

Mr Beacham, Technical Assistant – Parks , responded that he would arrange for a design, costings and a time scale for work to be available at the next meeting of the management group.

15. ITEM FOR INFORMATION

The environmental audit for July was received and noted.

The meeting closed at 4.05 pm.

CHAIRMAN