



## **BARGOED TOWN CENTRE MANAGEMENT GROUP**

### **MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING HELD AT THE BUSINESS AND TECHNOLOGY CENTRE, TREDOMEN ON THURSDAY, 1ST MARCH 2007 AT 5.00 PM**

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PRESENT:

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

Councillors:

D.T. Davies, W. David, G. Hughes and J. Wilson.

Together with:

Mr D. Collins (Blackwood Chamber of Trade).

I. MacVicar (Business Development Officer), C. Campbell (Transportation Engineering Manager), D. Earey (Principal Engineer – Traffic Management) and D. Phillips (Committee Services Officer).

#### **APOLOGIES**

An apology for absence was received from Councillors D. Poole and R. Campbell (Senior Assistant Engineer – Traffic Management).

#### **1. PENGAM LIGHTS**

The meeting was convened to discuss concerns regarding traffic movement in the vicinity of Pengam lights.

The issue had been raised on a number of occasions and at the previous meeting of the Bargoed Town Centre Management Group it was agreed that a special sub committee be convened to discuss the matter in more detail. Local members and a representative from the Bargoed Chamber of Trade had been invited to attend the meeting and outline their concerns.

Mr Campbell, Transportation Engineering Manager, circulated maps and an aerial photograph of the area and explained that the traffic movement at Pengam lights had been observed and considered by officers for a number of years. He did however consider that the future highway improvements would have an effect on this area and that the wider context should be looked at. The future Angel Way development, Oak Terrace by pass and closure of Waun Borfa would all have an effect on the Pengam lights junction and it would therefore be premature to make any changes at present.

Changes have taken place to the priorities of the traffic lights (the north/south lights have a separate cycle at the expense of the east/west). The physical geometry of the area would be extremely challenging and expensive to make changes due to the very steep gradients. There are major services under the road which would be very expensive to move if highway works were undertaken. Mr Campbell also made reference to the absence of any accident statistics at the junction since 1993, although he did report that accident statistics alone do not determine highway work.

A local member responded that he considered that the highway improvements outlined earlier in the meeting may worsen the Pengam lights situation as more traffic may be generated around the area. He considered that the east side has the worst traffic delays and that traffic flow was hindered from north to east.

Members and the representative from the Bargoed Chamber of Trade discussed their concerns and suggested possible improvements, one of which was the installation of a filter traffic light.

Mr Campbell replied that although cost would not deter this change a filter would require a dedicated phase that would reduce the time cycle for the north/south traffic and consequently increase queuing on these approaches. Mr Earey reminded members that if temporary measures were tested with traffic filters and then reversed, there may be a safety issue as drivers become accustomed to new changes.

Mr Earey also reported that he had personally monitored the area on Tuesday, 27th February 2007 and although he had witnessed a degree of congestion he considered that the area was not a major concern when compared to other busy junctions in the county borough.

Finally officers indicated that the situation will be kept under review and that any future suggestions would be always be considered.

It was resolved that unfortunately there was a failure to identify any improvement works to the Pengam lights area although the concerns over the safety of the junction and the traffic flow were noted.

The meeting closed at 6.20 p.m.