



BARGOED TOWN CENTRE MANAGEMENT GROUP

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT THE BUSINESS AND TECHNOLOGY CENTRE ON WEDNESDAY, 10TH OCTOBER 2007 AT 2.00 P.M.

PRESENT:

Councillor D.Carter - Chairman
Councillor T. Davies

Together with:

D. Collins and P. Collins and Ms. J. Thomas (Bargoed Chamber of Trade), Mr. and Mrs. Cooper, Mr. K. Jones (Local Residents), Messrs. I. Hughes and H. Farrant (Bargoed Town Council) and J. Coles (Hochtief Griffiths).

I. MacVicar (Business Development Officer), R. Tanner (Strategic Planning & Urban Renewal Manager), D. Churchward (Network Management Engineer), R. Campbell (Senior Assistant Engineer), S. Beacham (Senior Parks Officer), S. Trew (Senior Horticultural Liaison Officer), R. Lloyd (Special Projects Officer), R. Murphy (Communities First Co-ordinator), H. Mills (Communities First Support Officer) J. Elliot (Research Officer), B. Morgan (Project Officer-Urban Renewal), K. Harvey (Bargoed Town Council), D. Roles (YG Cwm Rhymini) and Catherine Window (Equalities Assistant).

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Mrs. D. Price (Vice-Chairman), Councillor K. Reynolds, Councillor K. Griffiths, A. Highway (Town Centre Development Manager) Messrs. I. Hill (Bargoed Chamber of Trade) and D. Phillips (Partnership Support Officer).

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made at the meeting.

2. MINUTES - 11TH JULY 2007

The minutes of the Bargoed Town Centre Management Group held on 11th July 2007 were received and noted.

The chair welcomed Daniel Roles, a pupil from Ysgol Gyfun Cwm Rhymini School who is currently on work experience at the council.

3. CHRISTMAS EVENTS

Mr. Richard Murphy, Community First Co-ordinator, distributed information containing details of the proposed itinerary for the Christmas celebrations in Greater Bargoed. This included lantern parade, workshops, a Father Christmas sleigh, an outdoor cinema showing, and a firework display. The lantern parade in Bargoed will mirror the successful parade that takes place in Caerphilly each year and three separate dates have been booked due to demand. The group felt it was important to market the event to a wide audience and therefore suggested extending the route to include Fochriw and Pontlloyn. Mr. Murphy said he is confident that all costs would be covered by generous contributions from Caerphilly County Borough Council, Bargoed Town Council, and the private sector. Posters advertising the event will be distributed shortly to schools and shops. Information about the event will be available on the Intranet and Internet. However, a few issues were raised that would need some consideration such as:

- Timing of the event: It was suggested that the time specified for the route of the sleigh would not be long enough.
- Weather protection for the Sleigh needs to be considered.
- Car parking issues: Additional car parking spaces should be made available; it was suggested the rugby club car park could resolve this problem.
- Concern was expressed at the lack of posters in shops on the previous time this event took place. Mr. Murphy agreed to produce 200 A3 posters and give them to the Chamber of Trade to distribute.

Mr. Murphy expressed his thanks to everyone involved in the organising of this event and the Chairman also thanked all members of the group for all their hard work.

4. RETAIL DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL

Mr. Tanner, Strategic Planning & Urban Renewal Manager gave an update on the progress of the retail development. Mr. Tanner said prices have been agreed for 11 of the 13 properties and it is hoped that the remainder will be acquired by the end of the year. It has been proposed that the existing library will be demolished and relocated on a permanent basis to Hanbury Road Baptist Chapel. In the meantime there will be a temporary library, possibly a mobile library. It is intended that Heads of the Valley funding will finance the architectural design for the conversion of the chapel. Plans and a model of how the chapel could accommodate the library were put on display at the end of the meeting. Discussion took place on the issue of the temporary library with some of the members of the group expressing concern about a mobile library. It was suggested the old Bargoed cinema could be used as a temporary library. The Chairman said the library issue would be an agenda item for a future meeting where the group could discuss this matter in detail.

The selection of the developer will take place in the next few months. There have been 11 expressions of interest, Cook and Arkwright will draw up a shortlist and invite developers to make formal bids with the hope of selecting a developer in January 2008. There is a need to update the 2003 Action Plan, especially to provide comprehensive plans for future convergence funding. A design team will be set up with the council and the developers.

5. PRESENTATION – ANGEL WAY AND BARGOED REGENERATION

Mr. John Coles, Liaison Co-ordinator for Hochtief Griffiths, was attending the meeting to give a presentation on the progress of the project and outline the anticipated programme of works for the next three months. The presentation focused on reviewing the progress from July – October and included illustrations of activities which included:-

- Road construction
- Piling works
- Temporary bridge construction
- Structure B1, B2 and B3

During discussion the following points were raised with Mr Coles and Mr Churchward:-

- Councillor Carter asked whether it would be possible for an earth bund to be erected to deflect traffic noise away from the nearby residents in East View.
- Councillor Davies praised the efforts of Hochtief Griffiths on their clear communication to the residents of Bargoed keeping them regularly informed by letters on issues, which may affect them.
- As utilities need to be improved, High Street would have to be closed to one-way traffic and the possibility of one-way system or temporary traffic lights operating in Bargoed – Mr. Collins said he hoped it would be a one-way system instead of traffic lights.
- Councillor Davies asked if the temporary traffic measures could revert back to a two-way system for Christmas due to this busy period.
- Delivery times for retailers needed to be resolved.
- Councillor Davies said it was important to inform the school and the police about the temporary heavy flow of traffic in the area to ensure the safety of the children in the morning, lunchtime and evening. It was agreed that Hochtief Griffiths would contact the school.

Finally it was agreed that the Chamber of Trade would be kept informed of proposals so that they will be aware of any future traffic disruptions in the town centre.

The Chairman thanked Mr Coles and Mr Churchward for the presentation.

6. HEADS OF THE VALLEYS FUNDING

Mr. Tanner, reported that Heads of the Valleys funding was available to assist in the design of the chapel conversion. He also stated that a small amount of money had become available due to slippage of the Sustainable Regeneration Fund, administered by WAG. This money could be used to improve footpaths in the park.

7. FILM NIGHT FEEDBACK

The Chairman informed the group about the success of the film night in Bargoed when Shrek 3 was played and proved to be very popular with around 250 people in attendance. A similar event is planned for Christmas with perhaps a smaller screen to keep costs low. The Town Council will support the event. Providing funding is available plans for future screenings from Easter to September 2008 are ongoing. The Chamber of Trade agreed to ask Traders if they would be willing to open later on the evening these film nights take place.

8. UPDATE ON ST GWLADYS GARDENS/BUS STATION AT BARGOED SQUARE

No update available.

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

9. Environmental Audit

The Environmental Audit for September 2007 was received and noted.

10. Taxi Company Operators Licence

Page 3 Taxi Company Operators Licence – Noted that the officer responsible for investigating this has returned to work after being on sick leave and should be invited to the next meeting.

11. Broken Windows High Street – Global Video

Page 6 Broken Windows High Street – Global Video - The shop was under negotiation for purchase but this has been put on hold at the moment. The group expressed concern about the unsightly image of this broken window and would like an update at the next meeting.

12. Junction of Capel Street and High Street

At the junction of Capel Street and High Street, HGV's are mounting the footpath to negotiate a turn into High Street, because there are vehicles parked outside the chapel. This reduces turning space. It was resolved that the chair would meet the local police and this item will be added to the Environmental Audit.

13. New Banners on High Street

The new banners on High Street were highly commended and appreciated.

The meeting closed at 3.20 p.m.
