



## **BARGOED TOWN CENTRE MANAGEMENT GROUP**

### **MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT THE INNOVATION CENTRE ON WEDNESDAY, 16TH JANUARY 2008 AT 2.00 PM**

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**PRESENT:**

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

**Councillors:**

A.G. Higgs  
D.T. Davies – Cabinet Member for Regeneration

**Together with:**

Messrs I. Hill and P. Collins (Bargoed Chamber of Trade), Mr J. Cooper (Local Resident), Mr I. Hughes and Ms K. Halvey (Bargoed Town Council) and J. Coles (Hochtief Griffiths).

I. MacVicar (Business Development Officer), B. Morgan (Senior Planner – Urban Renewal), A. Highway (Town Centre Development Manager) D. Churchward (Network Management Engineer), R. Campbell (Senior Assistant Engineer), S. Beacham (Senior Parks Officer), J. Elliott (Policy Officer) H. Mills (Communities First Support Officer) and D. Phillips (Partnership Support Officer).

#### **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from R. Tanner (Strategic Planning & Urban Renewal Manager) R. Murphy (Communities First Co-ordinator) and D. Collins (Bargoed Chamber of Trade)

#### **1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest made at the meeting.

#### **2. MINUTES - 10TH OCTOBER 2007**

The minutes of the Bargoed Town Centre Management Group held on 10th October 2007 were received and noted.

## **MATTERS ARISING**

### **3. Christmas Events (Minute No 3)**

Hannah Mills (Communities First Support Officer) gave an update on the Christmas celebrations held at Bargoed. She circulated the financial details and photographs taken at the Lantern Parade, which although the weather was cold, was a very successful event. Special thanks were given to all the generous sponsors and thanks were also recorded to Lorraine from the YMCA who organised working parties and workshops and also made a short film of the celebrations – It was suggested that this could be shown at a future meeting.

Thanks were also given to the Police, Community Support Officers and the council's cleansing department.

Arrangements are already being progressed for this years celebrations to ensure a continuous improvement.

### **4. PRESENTATION – ANGEL WAY AND BARGOED REGENERATION**

Mr John Coles, Liaison Co-ordinator for Hochtief Griffiths, was attending the meeting to give a progress report on the project to date and outline the anticipated programme of works for the next few months.

He also outlined the liaison activities he had undertaken on behalf of his company to keep the public informed. These had included talks to various community groups, a letter drop and various visits organised to the site.

A power point presentation illustrating the progress to date at various locations was shown and it was noted that it had been agreed that the works by BT to install new ducts had been delayed until the New Year in order to prevent disruption to the retailers at one of their busiest periods.

Traffic arrangements for this work were discussed and it was reported that either a temporary one-way system or temporary traffic lights to keep the two directions open would be the options considered.

It was agreed however that whatever option is decided there must be good communication and consultation with the all parties. The local ward members, Chamber of Trade, Police and local school need to be aware of details once a programme and dates for the work are decided. The Town Centre Development Manager indicated that he would assist with delivering any information leaflets to the retailers in the town.

It was also suggested that a letter be circulated to the local residential properties in the vicinity.

It was reported that parking concerns had been expressed from the residents at the top of Gilfach Street near the Gilfach junction. Although a temporary car park had been provided and there is a need for them to be kept informed of future developments.

It was suggested that the greatest disruption to the town centre would be later in the year (possibly July) when there would be no exit for vehicles from the north of Bargoed.

The Group praised the contractor for the work to date and Mr Coles responded that he had received very positive comments from visitors to the information shop in the town centre.

Finally it was suggested that the dressed stone demolished from the bridge could be used to produce a four-sided clock for the town. It was also suggested that an area of land at the new junction on Commercial Street (near the Cenotaph) could be grassed over and would make an excellent site for a Christmas tree.

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

**5. RETAIL DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL**

Mr Morgan, project Officer – Urban Renewal reported that the acquisitions of properties in preparation for the retail development proposal were progressing well. Negotiations are continuing with one property and to date no objections had been received from the compulsory purchase orders placed on the other properties. Mr Morgan also reported on a successful ‘open day’ held last November with prospective developers for the retail site. The closing date for bids is this Friday when the bids will be analysed and developers interviewed on their proposals. A report will then be presented to Council next month with a recommendation for a preferred developer. The design brief was for a cinema, retail store and public artwork although the developer may indicate in the brief if this is not a viable option.

**6. HEADS OF THE VALLEYS FUNDING**

Mr Highway, Town Centre Development Manager, reported that he had spoken to the Bargoed Town Clerk and clarified the position regarding Heads of the Valleys funding for Future Open Air Screenings in Bargoed. It was noted that one screening would be held this year from the funding.

**7. UPDATE ON ST GWLADYS GARDENS**

Mr Beacham, Senior Parks Officer gave details of a new landscape scheme for St Gwladys Gardens. The proposal is for a motif to be constructed from recycled ceramics which it is hoped may deter vandalism at the site. The project will be completed in July. A concern was expressed at previous vandalism as a CCTV camera is in the vicinity. It was agreed to discuss with the Control Room Manager the general procedures followed when culprits are caught on the camera. Information would be provided to Councillor Carter at the next Town Centre Improvement Group.

**8. UPDATE ON LIBRARY AND 45 HANBURY ROAD**

Mr Morgan reported that three sites had been identified for a temporary library and it had been agreed that the most suitable would be St Gwladys Church Hall. The refurbishment works are expected to be completed by June/July and will be a temporary facility for approximately eighteen months. All the library equipment will be temporary located there with the exception of the Family History section which will be returned when the permanent library is available.

The works at 45 Hanbury Road are near completion. The landscaping has been finished and only minor works are required. The artwork feature will be considered in due course when a theme for the town may be developed in conjunction with the new retail development. The artwork would have wide consultation with local schools being involved.

**ITEMS FOR INFORMATION**

**9. Retail Job Creation**

Mr Highway outlined a report providing information on the number of jobs created and lost in Bargoed town centre throughout 2007. Mr Highway referred to the challenge facing a relatively small town like Bargoed when during a difficult retail climate nationally many multiple retailers have moved away from a smaller store format and identified potential store closures.

He had however supplied information to national retailers about the future developments at Bargoed to assure them of the towns long-term future. The town now has a clear way forward and he considered that the morale among local retailers was relatively high. A question was raised on statistics from the national companies and Mr Highway responded that many of these companies consider this information confidential and are therefore reluctant to supply these details.

The Group noted the report.

**10. Environmental Audit**

The Environmental Audit for November 2007 was received and noted.

The following items were discussed: -

Page 2 Taxi Company Operators Licence – Noted that this issue had now been resolved.

Page 3 Dangerous Structure OS Hanbury Arms – an update on this item will be requested from the enforcement officer.

The meeting closed at 3.30pm

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