



BARGOED TOWN CENTRE MANAGEMENT GROUP

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT THE BUSINESS & TECHNOLOGY CENTRE ON WEDNESDAY 16TH APRIL 2008 AT 2.00 PM

PRESENT:

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

Councillor:

D.T. Davies – Cabinet Member for Regeneration.

Together with:

Messrs I. Hill, D. Collins and R. Perry (Bargoed Chamber of Trade), r & Mrs Cooper & K. Jones (Local Residents), Inspector Staniforth (Gwent Police), H. Farrant (Bargoed Town Council)
J. Coles (Hochtief Griffiths)

I. MacVicar (Business Development Officer), R. Tanner (Strategic Planning & Urban Renewal),
B. Morgan (Senior Planner – Urban Renewal), A. Highway (Town Centre Development
Manager), D. Churchward (Network Management Engineer), A. Franklin (Marketing Officer –
Business Development), P. Anstiss (Assistant Engineer), S. Beacham (Senior Parks Officer),
J. Elliott (Policy Officer), R. Murphy and L. Jones (Communities First)

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors H.A. Andrews and E.K. Griffiths and
I. Hughes (Bargoed Town Council) and C. Campbell (Transportation Engineering Manager).

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made at the meeting.

2. MINUTES - 16TH JANUARY 20087

The minutes of the Bargoed Town Centre Management Group held on 16th January 2008 were
received and noted.

3. 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 reported that there had been very good progress over the last three months and that the bridge, viaduct and tunnel were almost completed.

A power point presentation illustrating the progress to date at various locations was shown and it was noted that during the months of May, June and July road works would be continuing along Commercial Street to Gilfach Street. Utilities would also be moved from the old road /rail bridge which is due for demolition.

It was noted that a quarter of a million tons of top debris would be needed to level out the new retail plateau.

A question was raised on the access issues when the bridge is demolished and Mr Coles reported that access may not be available until the end of the works.

A concern was raised on future possible traffic problems when work is being carried out at the northern end of the town.

Mr Anstiss responded that a traffic order had been made to remove the bridge and a temporary one way system would be in place for heavy goods vehicles. A large amount of signage will be provided to advise drivers of the temporary changes. The footway will remain available to the railway station.

It was noted that the Police had received a number of complaints regarding illegal parking in this area and would be taking a forceful action on this. They had recently issued a number of parking tickets to prevent the route through the town from becoming blocked. It was noted that the Police wished to be involved in any consultation on temporary traffic measures.

The celebrations for the completion of the scheme were discussed and it was suggested that the Communications Manager be involved.

Mr Churchward reported that future works would include landscaping works (planting of trees and shrubs along the new roadside), the access road on top of the plateau needs to be completed and refurbishment of the High Street and progression of urban renewal projects behind Woolworths.

It was reported that there are no present plans for a 'drop off' area or toilets at the bus station and it was requested that these be considered at the planning stage of a new station. It was also reported that quotes are being sought for a park and ride facility at the train station.

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

4. PROPOSED ONE WAY TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT SYSTEM IN BARGOED

Mr Anstiss outlined the temporary one way traffic arrangements and confirmed that the Chamber of Trade would be kept involved in any further consultations.

5. RETAIL DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL

It was noted that the leading developer had been announced by Cabinet to take forward the high quality retail and leisure complex in Bargoed Town Centre. ASM Properties Ltd had been chosen to take the lead on the retail plateau with Asda as the anchor development store with 5 screen multiplex cinema. The development will also include 11 retail units including 2 restaurants, 27 flats and 564 parking spaces.

The development is expected to be completed by 2011 and is expected to create 300-400 jobs. A compulsory purchase order is in place if required but to date only Western Power has objected to the scheme.

The public are very supportive of the change and accept that disruptions will occur. A question was raised on the amount of work still to be done and if the existing Hanbury Square would fit in with the new developments. It was noted that it would be re-developed as a public square similar to Blackwood and Caerphilly. Hanbury Square will be a council project improved with European funding and consultation with the public.

In reply to a question on the transportation of materials following the demolition of the library and 12 houses it was noted that this matter would be discussed with the council engineer as the crushed material from the demolition may be re-used as a filler on the new site.

Finally the Chamber of Trade extended an invitation for Mr Tanner to give a presentation at their meeting.

Thanks were recorded to Mr Tanner on his development work at Bargoed.

6. UPDATE ON THE RELOCATION OF BARGOED LIBRARY

It was reported that the existing library would shortly be demolished and a temporary facility based at St Gwladys Church Hall. No contract has yet been signed and designs have not been finalised.

It was noted that the Family History Society had been temporary been relocated to the Elliot Winding House.

7. UPDATE ON ST GWLADYS GARDENS

Mr Beacham, Senior Parks Officer gave details of a new landscape scheme for St Gwladys Gardens. The motif of the Bargoed Town Council will be included in ceramic and it is hoped that the project will be completed by July. Mr Beacham will liaise with Mr Murphy (Communities First) in order to involve local community groups in the project.

8. BARGOED WEBSITE

Ms Franklin attended the meeting to give a presentation on the Bargoed web site which can be accessed through the Caerphilly County Borough Council website. The web site will provide information to visitors and shoppers and give updates on transport, parking, environmental projects and new scheme developments. It is hoped that the new website promoting Bargoed on the world wide web will attract further inward investment.

ITEM FOR INFORMATION

9. Environmental Audit

The Environmental Audit for March 2008 was received and noted.

10. Date of Next Meeting

The date of the next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 6th July 2008.