



BARGOED TOWN CENTRE MANAGEMENT GROUP

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT PENALLTA HOUSE, YSTRAD MYNACH
ON WEDNESDAY 29TH APRIL 2009 AT 2.00 PM**

PRESENT:

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

Councillors:

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

Together with:

Messrs I. Hill and D. Collins (Bargoed Chamber of Trade), K. Halvey and L. Harding (Bargoed Town Council), J. Coles (Hochtief Griffiths), Inspector F. Richley (Gwent Police).

R. Tanner (Strategic Planning & Urban Renewal), I. MacVicar (Business Development Manager), A. Highway (Town Centre Development Manager), D. Churchward (Network Management Engineer), C. Campbell (Transportation Engineering Manager), B. Morgan (Project Officer – Urban Renewal), J. Elliott (Policy Officer), B. Green (Events Officer) and D. Phillips (Partnership Support Officer).

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor R. Davies – Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Countryside, Councillor K.V. Reynolds and P. Collins (Bargoed Chamber of Trade) and G. Evans (Business Development Officer).

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made at the meeting.

2. RETIREMENT

The Chairman wished Dave Churchward a happy retirement and thanked him for all the work he had done on behalf of the council. Councillor Andrews also spoke on behalf of the Group and presented him with a token of thanks.

3. WELCOME

The Chairman welcomed Inspector Richley to his first meeting of the Bargoed Town Centre Management Group.

4. MINUTES - 28TH JANUARY 2009

The minutes of the Bargoed Town Centre Management Group held on 28th January 2009 were agreed as a correct record of the meeting.

MATTERS ARISING

5. Pengam Lights (minute no 5)

Concern was again expressed on the traffic problems in the vicinity of Pengam lights. Clive Campbell indicated that he would provide the local members with a timing update on the review but reported that it may still take between 4-6 months depending on the consultation.

6. Environmental Audit (minute no 8)

The poor appearance leading into Bargoed was again discussed and Dave Churchward indicated that although he had spoken to the contractor about the problem, Network Rail were still responsible for one untidy area.

7. ANGEL WAY AND BARGOED REGENERATION

Mr John Coles, Liaison Co-ordinator for Hochtief Griffiths, was attending the meeting to give a progress report.

Mr Coles gave a power point presentation showing the completed structures and reported that it had been disappointing to find graffiti on one of these structures. The contractor had now removed it and a specialist firm coated the structures to prevent further defacing.

Dave Churchward outlined a list of future works :

- Landscaping – this is on-going
- Demolition of buildings – funding secured and work to demolish commenced last week.
- Proposed Park and Ride– recently received confirmation to start work for approximately 20 spaces accessed off Wood Street.
- Work at Power Cut and town centre (Phase 1).
- Work on wall at Gilfach Street.

It was suggested that a maintenance scheme for the project, linked to the Country Park should be developed and that an officer from the countryside section be invited to attend a future meeting.

8. DETAILS FOR OFFICIAL OPENING OF ANGEL WAY

A report was circulated giving details of proposed events to celebrate the official opening of Angel Way and Phase 1 of Greater Bargoed Community Regeneration Scheme.

It was noted that the Deputy Minister, Ieuan Wyn Jones had been invited to attend along with other special guests from the council, contractor, partner agencies and the community.

The Group considered that local members should be consulted on all arrangements and that Councillor Harry Andrews who had played an important part throughout the development should be recognised in the celebrations.

It was resolved that Councillor H. Andrews be nominated as the council's prominent delegate at

any official opening.

Barbara Evans (Events Officer) reported that she would be arranging to have the Bargoed Carnival (with a Carnival Queen) on the week-end of the opening and would make further use of the marquee which would be erected on the retail plateau. A joint meeting was required urgently to formulate the proposals.

Barbara indicated that when the final arrangements and exact date are confirmed she will contact members.

9. ONE-WAY PROPOSAL FOR HANBURY ROAD/HIGH STREET

Clive Campbell reported on the public feedback on the proposed one-way road system at Hanbury Road/High Street.

An exhibition was held from 9-21st March and over 350 attended and were invited to make comments on the proposals. The majority of visitors were in favour of the proposals and only 17 made comments/ concerns. Areas of concern focused on potential anti social behaviour problems, Hanbury Square/Wood Street, increased traffic at Wood Street/Ruth Street, congestion in part at Bristol Terrace, traffic flows, disabled access to High Street, public toilets and Church Place.

Clive indicated that he had arranged a meeting with Inspector Richley to discuss certain issues that may arise and a post scheme review to monitor traffic flows and speed will be carried out. The formal public consultation will be for 21 days and the experimental road scheme will be for 18 months beginning possibly in July.

It was noted that a petition had been organised from the residents at Bristol Terrace who were protesting at the speed of cars in their street.

A concern was raised at the response time for emergency vehicles and Inspector Richley indicated that he would obtain figures on the speed/time of a 'Blue Light Run'.

It was unlikely that a formal objection would be logged. The problem was the prevention of a right turn south and access via Wood Street/ West Street. The next stage will be to commence formal consultation with a view to placing an 18 month experimental order, temporary signage would then be put in place and the whole scheme monitored.

Finally a concern was raised on traffic speeds along the new by-pass and if speed cameras could be positioned there. Inspector Richley replied that he would investigate this concern.

10. BARGOED TOWN CENTRE ACTION PLAN AND UPDATE ON RETAIL PLATEAU

Roger Tanner reported that the Bargoed Town Centre Action Plan – 2009 had been adopted by Council the previous day. The document will provide a supplementary planning guidance to the Unitary Development Plan and a framework for regeneration of Bargoed town centre the Plan would also promote Bargoed as a place to invest.

The Plan will depend on the success of European convergence funding for schemes such as Hanbury Square and improvements to the bus station to proceed.

The town wall and retail plateau are nearing completion and Mr Tanner also reported that talks are being held with a possible developer for the retail plateau.

The Town Centre Action Plan is available on the Council web site and can also be provided as a hard copy if requested.

11. UPDATE ON THE RELOCATION OF BARGOED LIBRARY

Gareth Evans had tendered his apologies for the meeting but had prepared a short report on the progress of the new library at the Baptist Chapel.

It was noted that a listed building consent form would be submitted to CADW by June 1st which would probably take 4-5 weeks for a decision to be made. If positive it is hoped that building works at the Baptist site would commence before the end of the current financial year 2009-10. Initial indications are that CADW are extremely positive about the development.

12. UPDATE ON BARGOED EVENTS

An update was given on recent and future events and Barbara reported that the Spring Fayre on 21st March had attracted a lot of publicity and been well attended.

She also gave a report on the Big Screen showing of High School Musical which was attended by approximately 1300 people. One concern during the evening was the large number of unaccompanied rowdy children and a lack of police officers to help control the situation. Although there was a presence of PCSO's at the start of the evening only event stewards were available later.

Andrew Highway indicated that he would put this concern on the Town Centre Improvement Group Audit and would also contact Howard Rees the Community Safety Manager to discuss the issue.

Inspector Richley reported that there were reasons for the absence of a police presence on that evening and had set up an Events Security Group to co-ordinate future events although funding may be an issue. He also reported that he was hoping to recruit approximately 6 special Constables in the future.

The Bargoed Carnival is to held on the 22nd June and another Big Screen showing is planned for 4th September.

A Miners Gala is to be held on the 8th August at Heolddu playing fields.

A vote of thanks was given to all the volunteers at these events as without them they could not be held.

13. CARDBOARD COLLECTION

It was reported that a recent meeting of Cabinet had decided that the previous free cardboard collection in the town should be discontinued as the market price for second hand cardboard had plummeted.

A local ward member had expressed concern that there was no consultation with the traders before the decision was taken and a representative from the Chamber of Trade outlined the problems the traders were now facing. He referred to problems with safety and storage of the cardboard, logistics in transferring the cardboard to the civic amenity sites and the costs of disposal.

It was agreed that an objection to the Cabinet decision be recorded and that a Special meeting of the Management Group be convened to discuss the withdrawal of the cardboard collection with the Cabinet Member for the Living Environment, Director of the Environment and appropriate officers invited to attend.

14. REQUEST FOR FUNDING - BARGOED MOSAIC FEATURE

Simon Beacham (Senior Parks Officer) was unable to attend the meeting but it was noted that he requested that consideration be given to providing a contribution from the Area Forum Budget to the replacement mosaic feature, which had been damaged by frost.

It was agreed that alternative sources for joint funding be investigated for this project and that the Chairman be given plenary powers to then decide on any funding contribution from the Area Forum budget.

15. ENVIRONMENTAL AUDIT

The Environmental Audit for March 2009 was received and noted.

16. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 15th July 2009.

The meeting closed at 3.55 pm.