



BARGOED TOWN CENTRE MANAGEMENT GROUP

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT PENALLTA HOUSE ON WEDNESDAY 15TH JULY 2009 AT 2.00 PM

PRESENT:

Councillor D.G. Carter – Chairman

Councillor:

D.T. Davies

Together with:

P. Collins and D. Collins (Bargoed Chamber of Trade)

I.G. MacVicar (Business Development Manager), A. Highway (Town Centre Development Manager), C. Campbell (Transportation Engineering Manager), B. Morgan (Project Officer – Urban Renewal), D. Whetter (Senior Engineer), M. Lloyd (Design & Construction Manager), P. Hudson (Assistant Tourism Officer), J. Elliott (Policy Officer), and D. Phillips (Partnership Support Officer)

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Mrs D. Price, Ms K. Halvey (Town Councillor), I. Hill (Bargoed Chamber of Trade) and J. Cooper (Local Resident).

It was reported that Mr Cooper was unwell at the moment. It was agreed that best wishes for a speedy recovery be sent to him from the Group.

The Chairman welcomed Marcus Lloyd and Dave Whetter to their first meeting of the Management Group.

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made at the meeting.

2. MINUTES - 29TH APRIL 2009

The minutes of the Bargoed Town Centre Management Group held on 29th April 2009 were agreed as a correct record of the meeting.

Matters Arising

3. Pengam Lights (Minute No 5/Page 2)

It was reported that a meeting had been held with the Assistant Engineer and that an additional meeting will be held on the 16th July to investigate the concerns further.

4. One Way Proposal for Hanbury Road / High Street (Page 3)

It was reported that the response time for emergency vehicles using the proposed one-way system had raised no issues from the Police.

It was noted that a traffic survey had been satisfactory following speed concerns at Bristol Terrace.

In discussing the new by-pass however, concern was raised again at the traffic speeds especially in the evenings. It was noted that the Camera Unit of Gwent Police had visited the location but had reported that there were no suitable lighting units available to site the cameras. Officers would investigate further with a possible speed survey.

5. Cardboard Collection (minute 13)

The local member reported that the issue of withdrawing a free cardboard collection, without appropriate consultation, from the town centres had been raised at a recent Regeneration Scrutiny Committee when it would be subject to further consultation and that the Cabinet Member for the Living Environment would consider meeting the Bargoed Chamber of Trade.

(The minute for the Regeneration Scrutiny on the 7th July stated that a motion was supported that officers would meet with the traders to discuss the matter further. A discussion also ensued on how to establish the best form of notification and communication. Officers agreed to draft a questionnaire, which would be brought back to the committee for consideration. The questionnaire could be used to consult with traders by post.)

6. PRESENTATION ON BARGOED LIBRARY

Mr Morgan gave a power point presentation illustrating the designs for the new Bargoed Library. The planning and listed building applications have been submitted and should these be approved, tenders and contractors will then be considered with United Welsh.

The building will accommodate a chapel, café, a family local history and learning centre as well as a library. Many of the original features including the windows will remain. Outside the building will keep the traditional façade at the front and a more modern design at the back.

Mr Morgan confirmed that the building would be suitable for wheelchair users and that a lift to all floors would be installed.

The present congregation of the Chapel have been offered suitable alternative accommodation during the work period.

7. MINER'S GALA – 8TH AUGUST

Mr Hudson circulated details of the forthcoming Miner's Gala, which will celebrate mining life in South Wales. It will be a free event and will include a wide range of entertainment for the local community. The report listed the entertainment planned for the event and the promotion details.

It was suggested that the promotion leaflets could be given to the Chamber of Trade and also available at the local library and post office.

A report was also circulated giving feed back from the recent Bargoed Carnival (27th June), which had been well attended. The event had been managed by the Greater Bargoed Communities First Partnership Carnival Committee and was supported by the Events Officer and the Greater Bargoed Communities First Officers. Thanks were recorded to them and all the volunteers for their work.

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

Mr Campbell circulated a map showing the proposed one-way system through the centre of Bargoed. He reported that the legal process for the experimental order had been completed and new signage (on existing street furniture) will be erected to make the new one-way road system clear to motorists.

9. BARGOED TOWN CENTRE ACTION PLAN

Mr Morgan reported that the Town Centre Action Plan had now been adopted and will be implemented over time. The negotiations regarding the retail development are ongoing.

A concern was raised in relation to the old library clock, which seems to have disappeared with the demolition despite a request from the Town Council that it be retained for future use. Mr. Morgan indicated that he would investigate this concern with the contractor.

10. UPDATE ON PARK AND RIDE AND BUS STATION

Mr Whetter reported that preparation work (infilling) had begun for the Park and Ride and Bus Station. The CCTV systems are being designed ready to install in the ground.

The design for a modern bus station is being progressed with Urban Renewal and consideration will be given to including a toilet facility. Details of the scheme will be presented at a later date.

It was confirmed that there would be no charge at the park and ride car park although it could be introduced if the facility was abused by other users.

There is also some finishing work of fencing and stonewalling around Angel Way to be completed. Landscaping is scheduled for September to March.

It was suggested by the Group that consideration should be given to re-surfacing the road through the town centre following all the utilities work. The local member also requested provision of barriers to prevent motorcycles at East View Terrace should be considered.

11. UTILITIES WORK THROUGHOUT THE TOWN

Mr Lloyd reported that he expected all work by Laing to be completed by the end of the week. The three way lights at Park Road had been removed and British Gas is expected to have completed their work by July 24th.

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

12. Environmental Audit

The Environmental Audit for May 2009 was received and noted.

13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 14th October 2009. The meeting closed at 3.40 p.m.