



BARGOED TOWN CENTRE MANAGEMENT GROUP

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT PENALLTA HOUSE ON WEDNESDAY 19TH MAY 2010 AT 2.00PM

PRESENT:

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

Councillor D.T. Davies

Together with:

Ms K. Halvey (Bargoed Town Council) and Messrs D. Collins and S. Murray (Bargoed Chamber of Trade)

R. Tanner (Strategic Planner and Urban Renewal Manager), B. Morgan (Senior Planner), J. Bennett (Group Manager – Advisory Services) A. Highway (Town Centre Development Manager), S. Evans (Communities First), R. Hughes (Events and Marketing Officer) and D. Phillips (Partnership Support Officer).

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor R. Davies – Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Countryside, Councillor H. A. Andrews, Town Councillor D. Morgan, Messrs I. Hill and P. Collins (Bargoed Chamber of Trade) and Mr J. Cooper (Local Resident).

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made at the meeting.

2. WELCOME

The Chairman welcomed Mr Murray (The President of the Bargoed Chamber of Trade) to his first meeting of the Management Group. The Chairman also welcomed Mrs Jan Bennett who following a reorganisation of the Economic Development Department would be attending the meetings in place of Mr MacVicar. Thanks were recorded to Mr MacVicar for all his work.

3. MINUTES - 20TH JANUARY 2010

The minutes of the Bargoed Town Centre Management Group held on 20th January 2010 were agreed as a correct record of the meeting.

4. UPDATE ON BARGOED LIBRARY

Mr Tanner reported that work had not yet commenced at Hanbury Road Baptist Chapel. Although the purchase price had been agreed and all planning and building consent had been obtained, United Welsh are still awaiting funding news before any work could commence.

Details for the Social Enterprise option for catering at the premises will be sent out shortly although this will not need to be resolved until later in the development stage.

5. UPDATE ON THE RETAIL PLATEAU

Mr Tanner reported that the legal agreement with Simons would possibly be formalised in the next few days and that a planning application would then possibly be submitted in September. If all dates are achieved there should be work on site at the start of the New Year.

6. PUBLIC REALM IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMME – TIMETABLE

Members noted the report and plans were circulated to illustrate the programme of Phase 1.

A 55 metre long set of steps between the bus station and High Street is to be constructed. The steps will be enclosed by pennant stone walling which will be in keeping with walling around the retail plateau and parts of Angel Way.

The top of the steps have however been problematic as the slope will be in two directions making it difficult to create a flat viewing space at the top. Work is expected to begin on this phase in August.

A question was raised on lack of disabled access at this location and a response was given that the Caerphilly Access Group had been consulted and that they accepted that the scheme is part of a larger overall programme with other improvement areas suitable for disabled access.

It was clarified that the design of the bus shelters would be the responsibility of the public transport department in conjunction with the bus companies.

A request was made by members for a four-sided clock to be included in the Phase 4 development at Hanbury Square.

7. BARGOED TOWN CENTRE MANAGEMENT BUDGET

Mr Highway explained that Heads of the Valley funding would shortly cease and each local authority has been asked to provide a statement confirming how their town centre activities will be funded after 2010/11. One option being piloted by Merthyr Tydfil CBC is a Business Improvement District (BID) where businesses in the town pay for activities through a levy on their business rate.

A representative from the Chamber of Trade expressed concern at this proposal and considered that a number of events (e.g. Christmas Carnival) had little effect on their trade. It was agreed that the proposal would be discussed in more detail at a Chamber of Trade meeting.

It was suggested that the Chamber of Trade would need to be convinced of any benefits to them through the scheme and also an indication of cost.

8. BARGOED BIG SCREEN AND BARGOED SPRING FAYRE

Mr Rhys Hughes, Events Officer for Bargoed introduced the report and gave an update on the Bargoed Big Screen and Spring Fayre.

He explained that following behaviour concerns at a previous Big Screen, a carefully chosen film was selected and extensive discussions held with the Police prior to the event. Thanks were recorded to all the volunteers who helped with the event which was very successful with an estimated attendance of 700-800 people.

The Big Screen planned for September may require that the car park be closed for the day and it was suggested that consideration be given to providing free car parking at the alternative car parks nearby.

The Spring Fayre held on 27th March at the Emporium car park attracted 13 stalls and Easter Eggs were given out to the first 100 children attending the event.

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

9. Environmental Audit

The Environmental Audit for May 2010 was received and comments made on the following:-

Signage Scheme – Town Centre (Page 4)

Delay due to signs not approved and sent back to manufacturer.

The following items to be considered for additions to the Audit:-

- Cleaning of signs near station
- Condition of wooden fence

10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 6th October at 2.00pm (Sirhowy Room, Penallta House).

The meeting closed at 3.20 p.m.