



BARGOED TOWN CENTRE MANAGEMENT GROUP

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT PENALLTA HOUSE ON WEDNESDAY 15TH DECEMBER 2010 AT 2.00PM

PRESENT:

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

Councillors:

H. A. Andrews, D. T. Davies, A. G. Higgs and K. V. Reynolds

Together with:

Ms K. Halvey (Bargoed Town Council)

Also with:

R. Tanner (Strategic Planner and Urban Renewal Manager), J. Bennett (Group Manager – Advisory Services), T. McMahon (Senior Community Regeneration Co-ordinator), A. Highway (Town Centre Development Manager), L. Hughes (Communities First), J. Elliott (Research Officer) and D. Phillips (Partnership Support Officer)

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor R. Davies – Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Planning, Inspector F Richley (Gwent Police), Messrs D. Collins, P. Collins and I. Hill (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. MINUTES - 30TH SEPTEMBER 2010

The minutes of the Bargoed Town Centre Management Group held on 30th September 2010 were agreed as a correct record of the meeting.

MATTERS ARISING

3. Consultation on Proposals to meet Budget Costs (Minute no 3)

It was noted that the Town Council had organised a petition against any possible closure of Bargoed Cash Office and had collected 2,400 signatures to date.

There was also concern expressed at the development of the new library and if a Customer First presence would still be included in the facility.

It was agreed that Bargoed had been identified for regeneration priorities and these proposals would be sending a negative message especially to local businesses.

4. Bargoed Big Screen (Minute no 6)

It was reported that the next Big Screen Event had been scheduled for March 2011 although if held, an alternative location would need to be identified as Hanbury Road car park would be unavailable. It was agreed that this successful event should continue if possible and that discussions be held with the Highways department on possible alternative sites in the town centre. The Management Group had at a previous meeting endorsed the possibility of a High Street location and suggested a Sunday evening to avoid traffic and shopper disruption.

5. Bargoed Christmas Market (Minute no 7)

It was reported that the ice rink located at St Gwladys car park would shortly be constructed ready for the 18th December. There would also be a Christmas market, a lantern parade and a firework display on that day. Bookings for the ice rink will start at 10.00am and a booking system will be in operation throughout the day. A festive market will be also be held and 24 stalls have already booked to attend.

Over 30,000 school children have been given a letter about the event and the local Campaign newspaper will offer a voucher scheme for discounts in some of the local businesses on that day.

Thanks were recorded to Clive Campbell and his section for their help in the road closures, Rhys Hughes for the preparation work and Advisory Services (Paul Hudson).

Thanks were also recorded to the local Bargoed Christmas Committee who had worked extremely hard to make the event a success. A press release after the event could acknowledge their work.

6. UPDATE ON BARGOED LIBRARY

Mr Tanner reported that the work on the library was on schedule and that some demolition had now commenced at the rear of the building. There was however a lot of internal work to complete so work should not be delayed for bad weather.

It was suggested that local ward members visit the development site to view progress and Mr Tanner indicated that he would contact the architect to discuss the feasibility of this.

7. UPDATE ON PHASE 1

Mr Tanner reported that the contract date had been delayed by a few weeks because of the cold weather conditions and that the new bus station will not be opened until the contract is finished. An exhibition on Phase 2 will be held in the New Year for the public and traders to comment on proposed changes to Hanbury Square.

Mr Tanner reported that the public would be asked for suggestions for names for a number of new squares created in the town centre improvements.

8. UPDATE ON RETAIL PLATEAU

It was reported that the planning application for the retail plateau would probably be submitted in March and following that it may then be appropriate for the developer to present their plans to the

Group. This could be at the next meeting or even a special meeting of the Management Group. Mr Tanner explained that there had been a number of reasons for a delay on progress on the site. Complicated preparation works were needed to accommodate the changing levels of the retail plateau, four interlocking legal agreements needed to be formalised and a number of funding and permissions to finalise.

It has been an expensive area to redevelop with the changing levels and reclaimed land. A recent decision by Cabinet had however agreed that the Heads of the Valleys Programme be requested to grant permission to vire funds originally allocated to the Markham Colliery project for 2010/11 to facilitate funding gap on the Bargoed Development. A decision was also taken that the council would also make a contribution towards the funding gap if required.

The management Group recorded thanks to Mr Tanner and his team for all their work.

ITEM FOR INFORMATION

9. Environmental Audit

The Environmental Audit for November 2010 was received and noted.

Best wishes were recorded to Lauren Hughes who would be shortly going on maternity leave.

10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 16th March 2011 (Business and Technology Centre, Tredomen).

The meeting closed at 2.55pm