



BARGOED TOWN CENTRE MANAGEMENT GROUP

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT PENALLTA HOUSE ON WEDNESDAY 15TH JUNE 2011 AT 2.00 PM

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, Mrs J. Morgan and Mr H. Llewellyn (Bargoed Town Council) and Messrs D. Collins P. Collins and B. Jarrett (Bargoed Chamber of Trade).

Also with:

J. Bennett (Group Manager – Advisory Services) A. Highway (Town Centre Development Manager), B. Morgan (Senior Planner), G. Evans (Senior Manager – Libraries), H. Morgan (Principal Engineer – Passenger Transport), T. White (Refuse and Cleansing Officer) S. Wilcox (Assistant Town Centre Manager), E. Saunders (Communities First Co-ordinator) and D. Phillips (Partnership Support Officer).

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor K.V. Reynolds, I. Hill (Chamber of Trade) and Mr J. Cooper (Local resident).

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made at the meeting.

2. CHAIRMAN ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman welcomed Ms Emma Saunders (Communities First Co-ordinator) to her first meeting of the Group. He also congratulated Dave Collins (Secretary of Bargoed Chamber of Trade) for the special Achievement Award he had received from Probiz. The Chairman also expressed his thanks to Mrs Dorothy Philips from the Council Committee Section for her hard work over many years.

3. MINUTES - 16TH MARCH 2011

The minutes of the Bargoed Town Centre Management Group held on 16th March 2011 were agreed as a correct record of the meeting.

Matters Arising

Bargoed Library (Minute no 6)

It was confirmed that the special VIP evening referred to at the previous meeting would be arranged for this Group when the contactor is satisfied that the building would be safe for visitors.

It was also confirmed that the catering contract to manage the cafeteria had recently been awarded.

Commercial Improvement Grants (Minute No 7)

A question was raised on the uptake of Commercial Improvement Grants in Bargoed and Mr Morgan confirmed that two properties had applied for funding but reminded members that there is limited funding for this grant.

Christmas Fayre (Minute No 10)

It was suggested that funding be sought in order to give the first 100 children to the Christmas Fayre a Christmas stocking.

4. UPADTE ON BARGOED LIBRARY

Mr Gareth Evans gave a progress report on the conversion of Hanbury Road Baptist Chapel to a new library.

He reported that building work was on schedule and that the furniture had been purchased and was now in storage.

A project team has been established and will plan for services to relocate to the building. It is hoped that the closure period will be minimal and that the new library will be open to the public from early December.

A question was raised on the future use of shelving in the temporary library and if it was surplus could it be offered to local communities groups? Mr Evans confirmed that this would be organised.

5. UPDATE ON MORRISONS PLANNING APPLICATION

Mr Bryan Morgan reported that the planning application for the store is presently out to consultation for comments and the application is then expected to be submitted to the Planning Committee meeting in early July. If granted, work will then proceed to divert the utilities at the site (October/November) and building work would then commence in the new year with a possible completion date of Summer 2013.

6. OPENING OF BUS STATION AND FUTURE OPERATION AND ONE WAY SYSTEM

Mr Huw Morgan was attending the meeting for this item and a report on the revised arrangements following the opening of the Bargoed Interchange were circulated to members.

He explained that there would be some changes to the way services arrive and depart at Bargoed and arrangements for present daytime services were summarised in the report. It is envisaged that other services will extend to serve the new interchange in the coming months, pending a review of routes by bus operators.

Members congratulated the Transport Unit for the clear and professional timetable they had produced.

Concern was raised that a large amount of surface water had collected near the entrance and also the poor condition of the nearby banking and Mr Morgan indicated that he would progress these concerns with the contractor.

A question was raised regarding the next phase which will involve the closure of Upper High Street and if the traders had been kept informed of work. Mr Bryan Morgan indicated that he would get more information on this proposal and circulate the details.

Members raised concern for the local traders and that any work should not interfere with their busy Christmas period. It was also suggested that a suspension of parking charges over this years Christmas period should once again be considered.

7. BARGOED CARNIVAL – UPDATE

Ms Emma Saunders was attending the meeting for this item. She reported that the Carnival had been a great success and although the formal de-brief had not yet been held there had been very few problems on the day apart from a vintage bus which had been damaged when travelling over a ridge.

Thanks were recorded to the local partnership, volunteers and the Community Police who worked very hard on the day.

8. CLEANSING ARRANGEMENTS

Mr Tony White circulated a report on cleansing arrangements for Bargoed Town Centre. He explained that in view of the new bus station and public conveniences various changes to the cleansing arrangements had been made.

The report listed the cleansing arrangements for the public conveniences for the new and old bus stations, the steps at Hanbury Road and the steps at the back of the library.

A question was raised on possible vandalism to the new bus station toilets and how to report incidents. Mr White replied that there is a cleansing person in the town during the day who could attend. It was suggested however that an emergency number be displayed for any problems to be reported.

A concern was expressed that the closure of the old toilets would leave no facility in that area of town until the new store was opened. Mr White indicated that he would investigate if any funding was available for retail premises to be compensated in they allowed the public to use their toilets. Mr Highway indicated that he could also canvass retail premises for support on this scheme via the Town Centre News.

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

It was reported that Inspector Jones had been appointed as the new Police Inspector for Bargoed. It was also reported that retail thefts had decreased following a police presence in the town.

Thanks were recorded to the Original Factory shop for their charity contribution.

Bargoed big red bags were displayed and would be distributed at various events to shoppers during the year.

10. ITEM FOR INFORMATION

Environmental Audit

The Environmental Audit for June 2011 was received and noted.

The meeting closed at 3.15 pm.