



BLACKWOOD TOWN CENTRE MANAGEMENT GROUP

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT THE COUNCIL OFFICES, PONTLLANFRAITH
ON THURSDAY, 27TH APRIL 2006 AT 4.00 P.M.**

PRESENT:

Councillor L. Gardiner - Chairman

Together with:

L. Williams (Assistant Engineer), A. Highway (Town Centre Development Manager), I. MacVicar (Business Development Officer), R. Campbell (Senior Assistant Engineer), J.C. Rogers (Solicitor - Legal Services), P. Hotchkiss (Licensing Officer), S. Smith (Senior Assistant Engineer), J. Elliot (Policy Officer) and G. George (Committee Services Manager).

Also Present:

C. Kearns (Centre Manager Market Place)
C. Sharp (Residents Representative)
R. Wiseman (Blackwood Traders Association)
Ms. J. Morgan (Blackwood Traders Association)
Cllr. Mrs. E.D. Mantle (Blackwood Town Council)
PC 92 Carl Hughes (Gwent Police)
PC 42 Harris (Gwent Police)

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from I.L. Palmer (Blackwood Town Council), Mr and Mrs. Edwards (Blackwood Chamber of Trade) and A. Dallimore (Urban Renewal).

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made at the meeting.

2. TERMS OF REFERENCE

The group's attention was drawn to the revised terms of reference which the Council had agreed would now be applied to its three Town Centre Management Groups. One of the aims of these revised terms was to allow Town Centre Management Groups to refocus on wider development issues and the promotion of respective town centres.

The group noted the contents of the report and its purpose in ensuring that such groups contributed to the objectives set out in the Council's Regeneration programme.

3. PROGRESS REPORT ON BLACKWOOD INTERCHANGE

The group considered the report, a copy of which had been circulated to all present, on progress on this scheme. Relatively few complaints had been received during the demolition work and these had been dealt with by the contractor and officers. The main contractor had started on site and it was programmed that works would be completed on the interchange to at least allow buses to be removed from the High Street parking areas by December 2006.

4. CEFN ROAD, BLACKWOOD AND METHODIST CHAPEL PUBLIC REALM SCHEME

This public realm scheme was complete and the contractor had left the site. Several snagging items have been identified with the contractor and these will be rectified in due course.

Cefn Road will remain closed under the temporary traffic order. A meeting is being held with local residents (both for and against the closure being made permanent) and councillors on the 10th May to establish whether the closure should remain permanent.

Statutory consultees views had been sought and their responses were due back by 5th May 2006. The Police had offered no objection to a permanent closure of Cefn Road. Officers had contacted Mount Pleasant Baptist church to seek their views prior to the meeting on 10th May 2006.

Plans of the proposed traffic orders were on display at the meeting for anyone who wished to discuss them with traffic management officers.

5. THORNCOMBE ROAD RETAIL DEVELOPMENT

The group were informed that Develica, the Thorncombe Road Scheme developer had successfully applied to the Council's Planning Department to slightly increase the number of retail units on this scheme by reducing the individual floor space of each unit. The overall footprint will remain the same with each of the units being marginally smaller than shown in the initial planning application.

The development was due to be structurally completed by late September/early October to allow fitting out. Focus, the main anchor store, was aiming to be open before Christmas 2006.

6. INFORMATION ITEMS

The group noted the following information items:-

- (a) Blackwood Environmental Audit for April
- (b) Blackwood Town Centre Traffic Calming – the situation was being monitored. In response to a question about the raised traffic calming humps it was stated that the contractor had been asked to do a design review on these. Some criticisms had been received about the profile of them.

The meeting closed at 4.50 p.m.

CHAIRMAN