



## **BLACKWOOD TOWN CENTRE MANAGEMENT GROUP**

### **MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT THE COUNCIL OFFICES, PONTLLANFRAITH ON THURSDAY, 12TH MARCH 2009 AT 4.30 PM**

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**PRESENT:**

Councillor K. Smallman – Chairman

Councillor R. Davies – Cabinet Member

**Together with:**

I. MacVicar (Business Development Officer) and D. Phillips (Partnership Support Officer).

**Also Present:**

Messrs C. Sharp and J. Organ and Ms D. Davies (Local Residents) and D. Jones (Blackwood Town Council) and J. Hold (Clerk- Blackwood Town Council)

Inspector K. Childs and PC. K. Hughes

#### **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors K. Etheridge and Mrs K. Preseley, Town Councillor A. Farina-Childs, Mr P. Lambert (Local Business), A. Dallimore (Team Leader – Urban Renewal), A. Highway (Town Centre Development Manager), B. Campbell (Senior Assistant Engineer) and J. Elliott (Research Officer).

#### **1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest made at the meeting.

#### **2. MINUTES**

RESOLVED that the following minutes be approved as a correct record:-

Blackwood Town Centre Management Group held on 20th November 2008.

#### **MATTERS ARISING**

#### **3. Former Public Convenience Site – High Street (minute 3)**

The Clerk of Blackwood Town Council reported that he had written to the county borough to request that some form of toilet facility be considered for inclusion in the new Blackwood study.

#### **4. RETAIL JOB CREATION, BLACKWOOD 2008**

Members noted a report giving information of jobs created and lost in Blackwood Town Centre throughout 2008.

It was considered that in the present economic climate it was encouraging that there was an overall gain in retail jobs during this period.

A question was asked if statistics on all jobs in the town centre could be provided. Mr MacVicar responded that employment records would not be generally be available or be up to date. However it was agreed that the Town Centre Development Manager would be consulted on whether he had an employment details for individual shops.

#### **5. BLACKWOOD TOWN CENTRE IMPROVEMENT GROUP AUDIT**

The following items were discussed:-

- a) Criminal Damage (Page 2) – Reference was made to a number of anti social behaviour problems around the Piers building and if the CCTV camera was effective in identifying these incidents. It was agreed that an update on CCTV in the town centre be provided to the next meeting.
- b) New Artwork – Gravel Lane (Page 3) – A question was raised if the artwork proposed for Gravel Lane/High Street had already been created and Mr MacVicar responded that he would investigate the question.
- c) New Consultants Study - Town Centre (Page 4) - The Management Group endorsed the lobbying for Blackwood Town to be included in the Wales Spatial Plan and eligible to bid for WEFO funding
- d) Asda 24 Hour Opening (Page 6) – Concern was raised that anti social behaviour appeared to have increased since the introduction of 24 hour shopping at Asda.
- e) Defining the Future Banners – High Street (Page 8) Although concern was raised at the cost of the new banners and window stickers it was reported that they must be viewed as a positive marketing investment programme to attract shoppers to the town.
- f) Litter Issues – Northern Retail Park (Page 8) - A number of concerns regarding litter and anti social behaviour were reported including litter in the town centre, the top of the steps at Cliff Road and the area under the new bridge.

The Police representative indicated that he considered that the cleansing in the town centre was very good but was aware of the other concerns although they were cleared on a regular basis. He indicated however that it may be more appropriate to raise a number of the issues of anti social behaviour at the local PACT meeting.

- g) Signage Query – Gravel Lane - A question was raised on whether the central reservation could be put back or a raised crossing be provided at this crossing area.

#### **6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

A request was made that the Terms of Reference of the Management Group be provided to the Town Council.

**7. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Thursday 21st May 2009 at 4.30pm – Pontllanfraith Council Chamber.

The meeting closed at 5.15 pm.