



BLACKWOOD TOWN CENTRE MANAGEMENT GROUP

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT THE COUNCIL OFFICES, PONTLLANFRAITH
ON WEDNESDAY, 4TH MAY 2011 AT 4.00 P.M.**

PRESENT:

Councillor K. Smallman – Chairman

Councillor:
Mrs K. Presley

Mr C. Sharp and Ms D. Davies (Local Residents), J. Hold (Clerk, Blackwood Town Council)
Ms M. Franklin (Bargoed Town Councillor), and PC. C Hughes (Gwent Police)

Together with:

A. Dallimore (Urban Renewal Manager), A. Highway (Town Centre Development Manager),
J. Bennett (Group Manager – Advisory Services). B. Campbell (Senior Assistant Engineer),
S. Wilcox (Assistant Town Centre Manager), 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 Countryside), Town Councillors A. Farina-Childs and D. Davies,
Mr. J. Organ (Local Resident), Mr P. Lambert (Local Business), Inspector K. Childs (Gwent
Police) and P. Hudson (Senior Events and Marketing Officer, CCBC).

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declaration of interest was made at the meeting.

2. WELCOME

The Chairman welcomed Steve Wilcox (Assistant Town Centre Manager) to his first meeting
of the Blackwood Town Centre Management Group.

3. MINUTES

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

Blackwood Town Centre Management Group held on 27th January 2011.

4. **MATTERS ARISING**

Mr Highway reported that Mr Hudson was unfortunately on bereavement leave but that he had requested details of a proposed Blackwood Summer Festival on the 16th/17th July be reported to the group. The High Street would be closed to traffic and the entertainment designed to bring families to the event. The local ward members had indicated that they would support the event with a contribution for the Area Forum Budget and the Management Group agreed that £4,000 be allocated to the event.

5. **PRESENTATION**

Mr Dallimore reminded members of the Powell Dobson presentation in September 2008 on the proposals to regenerate Blackwood High Street. Unfortunately the funding bid was not successful and the proposals did not materialise.

He referred however to Bargoed who had been successful in securing funding for a number of improvements throughout the town centre. The presentation illustrated the works which would be progressed in Bargoed in order to achieve pedestrian priority, slow the traffic, minimal road markings and create key spaces. The street scene would be achieved with locally sourced materials and completion expected in 2013.

The Blackwood proposals from Powell Dobson had been similar to Bargoed and proposed reducing carriageways, removing barriers and street clutter with soft landscaping.

Although Blackwood may be successful with funding in the future a number of improvements can still be carried out to improve the town centre.

Mr Dallimore suggested that one of these improvements would be that the barrier near the library be replaced by one of a higher specification (a bespoke design of galvanised steel) and requested that a contribution be given from the Area Forum Budget.

It was agreed by the Group that a contribution of £2,000 be given to the work.

A question was raised on the possibility of introducing a one-way system through the town (as Bargoed has done). Officers responded that one reason the one-way system in Bargoed was introduced was to facilitate extra pedestrian width especially on the eastern side of the town. The road through Blackwood is class 'B' with approximately 11,000 vehicles a day using it which may cause problems for local residents if they were directed to use other routes. Mr. Highway reported that footfall figures for the town since the Christmas period were encouraging and that four new businesses had opened.

6. **ITEMS FOR INFORMATION**

Blackwood Town Centre Improvement Group – Audit – March 2011

The Improvement Group Audit for March 2011 was noted.

Date of Next Meeting

Thursday 21st July 2011 at 4.30 p.m. – Pontllanfraith Council Chamber

The meeting closed at 4.35 p.m.