



BARGOED TOWN CENTRE MANAGEMENT GROUP

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT TREDOMEN BUSINESS CENTRE ON WEDNESDAY 3RD OCTOBER 2012 AT 2.00 P.M.

PRESENT:

Councillors:

Councillor D. Carter (took the Chair following his appointment), D. T. Davies, A. G. Higgs, K. James and K. V. Reynolds

Together with:

H. Llewellyn (Town Councillor) and B. Jarrett (Bargoed Chamber of Trade)

Also:

A. Highway (Town Centre Development Manager), J. Bennett (Group Manager Advisory Services), D. Perkins (Head of Legal & Governance), A. Jones (Complaints Officer) and R. Tanner (Strategic Planning & Urban Renewal Manager)

APOLOGIES

Councillor H. R. Andrews, Councillor D. Price, V. Stephens (Town Councillor), D. Morgan (Mayor), S. Wilcox (Assistant Town Centre Manager), J. Elliott (Research Officer Performance)

The Council's Head of Legal & Governance took the Chair pending the formal appointment of the new Chair.

1. TERMS OF REFERENCE

Concerns were expressed at the recent changes to the terms of reference of the Town Centre Management Group and specific reference was made to the consultation process undertaken.

It was explained that the Report in relation to the changes to the terms of reference had been considered and approved by Cabinet following a consultation with all relevant Ward Members. The recently agreed terms make provision for the Group membership to include the Police, Chamber of Trade and representative of other retail group, the Community/Town Council and other constituted organisations. All previous representatives on the TCMG have been contacted and asked to provide their group's constitution for approval. Mr Jarrett representing Bargoed Chamber of Trade expressed his concern that the Bargoed Chamber of Trade had not received the letters. Officers assured him that they had been posted and confirmed that

they would re-send.

2. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN

It was agreed that Councillor David Carter be appointed as Chairman of the Bargoed Town Centre Management Group and he formally took up position of Chair.

3. APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIRMAN

It was agreed that Councillor Diane Price be appointed as Vice Chairman of the Bargoed Town Centre Management Group.

4. MINUTES (8TH MARCH 2012)

The minutes of the Town Centre Management Group held on the 8th March 2012 were received and noted.

5. MATTERS ARISING

Wheelchair access at Bargoed Library - minute number 4

Concerns were expressed regarding wheelchair access to the library. Mr Tanner advised that this had been taken into consideration. It is planned that the level of the highway will be raised.

Bargoed Market - minute number 4(e)

Mr Tanner confirmed that after a considerable amount of looking into all possible options, it has been approved that the market will be held in St Gwladys car park.

6. BARGOED RETAIL PLATEAU

Phase 1

Mr Tanner advised that the contractor Simons will be finishing diversions at the end of the month and that they will retreat within the boundary and disruption should be minimised.

He also advised that the construction of the petrol station at Morrisons is scheduled to start early next year.

Phase 2

The Council is working with the National Cinema Company to agree terms and conditions for the new cinema project. At this stage they have requested that the Council should not release the name of the proposed operator.

Mr S. Pugh (Publicity) will liaise with the cinema operator regarding the issue of forthcoming press releases relating to this phase of the development.

Mr Tanner confirmed that construction of the cinema will not commence until the contractors Simons have completed the ongoing stockpiling works. It is anticipated that Contracts will be going out to tender next year with a timescale for works to commence towards the end of next year.

Mr Tanner advised that funding of £170,000 Heads of Valleys money is available to be used to construct permanent car park, signage and surfacing to replace the temporary car park.

Residents are to be reminded of the long term benefits of the Hanbury Road Car Park. This was supported by the Chamber of Trade.

During the course of the debate reference was made to the lighting in Bargoed and dedicated use of the park and ride facility. It was explained that research had been undertaken and officers were confident that sufficient parking would be available. With regards to the lighting, this would be looked into in the near future.

Reference was made to problems in Hanbury Road car park and steps leading to Hanbury Road with regards to weeds and overgrown grass and it was requested that this be cleaned up.

7. PUBLIC REALM

Discussion took place regarding issues with bus routes around the Town Centre. This is a matter outside of the Council's control and the bus company have advised that they intend to continue to use the current route.

Communications - In view of the extent of the works being undertaken throughout the town, the communications between the various departments involved and with members of the public was emphasised. The concerns raised by Councillor Davies were noted and would be taken into account.

8. TOWN CENTRE PARKING STRATEGY

Consideration was given to the report produced by officers seeking views on the proposed parking strategy for Bargoed Town Centre. Mr Tanner advised that the strategy aims to maximise the attractiveness and accessibility of the available car parking provision during the regeneration and retail plateau development works and beyond, in order to support the vitality and viability of Bargoed Town, and in particular during the extended period of disruption whilst regeneration works are ongoing.

Mr Tanner confirmed to the Group that he will obtain further comments from Engineers on the management of the car parking for both Morrisons and the new cinema.

The Town Centre Management Group noted the proposed strategy and supported its implementation.

The Chairman requested that it be recorded of his appreciation for the works undertaken by Mr Tanner on the parking strategy.

9. AUDIT

Consideration was given to the September audit and in noting its content specific reference was made to the proposed office development of the former Woolworths store.

Mr Tanner advised that the refurbishment will commence within this financial year on the lower ground floor entrance from St Gwladys Way.

Request for clarification as to when the Angel Artwork would be installed at the Northern approach to the town, situated at the entrance of St Gwladys car park.

Mr Tanner confirmed he will look into this.

The meeting closed at 3:45

At the conclusion of the meeting Mr Jarrett from the Chamber of Trade wished to record his appreciation for both Steve Wilcox and Paul Hudson for their roles in the regeneration of Bargoed Town Centre.

CHAIRMAN