



BLACKWOOD TOWN CENTRE MANAGEMENT GROUP

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT THE COUNCIL OFFICES, PENALLTA HOUSE ON WEDNESDAY, 20TH FEBRUARY 2013 AT 2:00 P.M.

PRESENT:

Councillors:

Councillors N. Dix, P. Cook, K. James, T. Williams

Together with:

C. Erasmus (Town Councillor), Z. Hammond (Town Councillor), Mr. J. Hold (Clerk, Blackwood Town Centre), PS Neil Jones (Gwent Police), Mr. H. Edwards (Blackwood Retail Partnership)

Also:

A. Highway (Town Centre Development Manager), J. Bennett (Group Manager Business Enterprise Support), A. Dallimore (Team Leader - Urban Renewal & Conservation), P. Hudson (Marketing & Events Manager), B. Campbell (Senior Assistant Engineer), A. Jones (Complaints Officer)

1. APOLOGIES

Councillor C. Hawker, Councillor D. Ellis, Steve Wilcox (Assistant Town Centre Manager), Inspector (Gwent Police), T. Stephens (Development Control Manager)

2. MINUTES (17TH OCTOBER 2012)

Previous minutes were taken as read.

Mr. J. Hold would like to have it noted that he did attend this meeting as he was not noted as attending on the previous minutes.

3. CHANGE IN CROSSING PROVISION & INTRODUCTION OF 20 MPH ZONE HIGH STREET

Councillor N. Dix decided that this item is to be moved to the audit and listed as an agenda item for the next meeting to allow further consultation between the Town Council and the Engineering Division.

4. BLACKWOOD GATE PLANNING APPEAL

Tim Stephens was unable to attend so Andrew Highway provided an update from the officer which he read out "The situation at Blackwood Gate is that the Planning Committee has resolved to grant planning permission to extend the type of goods that can be sold at the premises to include food (but only on 4274 square metres of floor space), non-food retail on 1858 square metres, and a mixture of leisure use and bulky goods retail use on the remaining 1140 square metres. The permission will be issued once a legal agreement is signed to pay £60,000 to the Council to provide a footpath link between the northern end of the site and the nearby public car park. The permission should be issued in the next few weeks. The developers will also have to extend the parking at the site, and provide a bus shelter on High Street. Officers have not been provided with any firm information about potential occupiers for the premises.

We are also dealing with another application for planning permission for the provision of traffic lights at the entrance to the site, which we hope to report to Planning Committee in March, but the permission for the food retail is not dependent upon it from a planning point of view."

Councillor N. Dix added that if there are any questions they should be directed to Tim Stephens via email.

5. JOB CREATION/JOB LOSSES IN BLACKWOOD TOWN CENTRE 2013

The report was read by Andrew Highway and taken as read.

Councillor N. Dix wished to thank Mr. H. Edwards (Blackwood Retail Partnership) for all of his efforts and contribution. He asked Mr. H. Edwards to raise the issue with the retailers with regards to responding to surveys directly to Andrew Highway.

Mr. H. Edwards confirmed that he will address this matter in the next partnership meeting.

6. ST. DAVID'S DAY EVENT 2013

Mr. Paul Hudson confirmed that event has been successful previously.

Ten shops have agreed to participate in a St David's Pilgrim trail organised by Town Centre Management. On St David's Day a concert will be staged by the Councils Events Team at the Dragon Circle next to Asda and five schools from the local area will be participating. Mr. Hudson advised that the retail partnership has provided a lot of assistance and work well with his team.

Councillor N. Dix wished to thank Mr. Hudson for organising the event but also thanked him and his team for all of their hard work with all of the events that had been organised throughout last year.

Mr. H. Edwards expressed his thanks on behalf of the Blackwood Retail Partnership for the events team organising the events and appreciation for all of the work done to drive footfall up in the High Street.

Councillor K. James echoed these thanks to the team for serving Blackwood well.

7. BLACKWOOD TOWN CENTRE AUDIT (JANUARY 2013)

Consideration was given to the January Audit and was taken as read.

Councillor N. Dix wished to thank the café owner, Community Safety Wardens and Police for the excellent job in improving the area around the bus station.

Mr. A. Dallimore confirmed that the area around the old toilet block will continue to be cleaned and kept in a manageable as far as possible.

Councillor T.J. Williams wished to discuss the matter of disabled parking. Councillor N. Dix advised that this matter would be raised on the audit and brought back as an agenda item for the next meeting. It was requested that Mr. B. Campbell report back once consultation had been carried out.

Mr. Campbell wished to raise the matter of extending the Thursday overnight closure to now include Pentwyn Road. Councillor N. Dix advised that this matter would be raised on the audit and brought back as an agenda item for the next meeting.

The meeting closed at 3:03 p.m.

CHAIRMAN