



YSTRAD MYNACH TOWN CENTRE MANAGEMENT GROUP

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT PENALLTA HOUSE ON WEDNESDAY 4TH MARCH 2014 AT 2:00PM

PRESENT:

Councillors:

A. Angel, K. James, M. James, J. A. Pritchard

Together with:

Mr W Jeff (Tredomen Allotments Association), Dr M Jorro (Rhymney Valley Music Club)

Also:

A. Highway (Town Centre Development Manager), S. Wilcox (Assistant Town Centre Manager), R. Campbell (Senior Assistant Engineer), A. Jones (Clerk)

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr D. T. Davies, C. Mortimer (Clerk), PS Carl Morgan (Gwent Police), A. Dallimore (Team Leader - Urban Renewal & Conservation).

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor M James queried whether it would need to be declared that he is the Chair of the Ystrad Mynach Community Partnership and other members at this meeting are all members of the Community Partnership. Cabinet Member Councillor K James did not see a problem with this

3. TO NOTE THE PREVIOUS MINUTES ON 3RD DECEMBER 2013

The previous minutes were taken as read.

4. UNIQUE PLACES CHRISTMAS CARD DEBRIEF

The report was presented to the group and Mr Highway advised that the main goal of the initiative was to raise the profile of the town. Out of the 80 retailers that participated throughout the five towns, four were from Ystrad Mynach.

Councillor Pritchard pointed out that the report provided did not include any of the data for the survey. Mr Highway apologised and confirmed that he would arrange to send the full report to all members. Mr Highway briefly outlined that in the full report the findings were conflicting whereby the results were showing a mixed reception towards the scheme however there was a high percentage of traders who confirmed that they would like to participate in the scheme in the future.

Concerns were raised over whether or not the scheme is cost effective. Mr Highway informed the group that his team are looking into something for the summer and needs to see how that goes before any decisions are made for Christmas.

Councillor M James advised that whilst it is a good idea, which will hopefully be more successful in the future. Councillor James confirmed that he had been, approached by a trader who felt that not enough discussion had taken place with the traders about the scheme, this information will be provided to Mr Highway.

Councillor K James wanted the group to be mindful that this is a new group and the scheme is also relatively new. Other towns have seen increases over the years and so should wait to see how things work out.

Mr Highway advised the group that if there was a Chamber of Trade for Ystrad Mynach then they could encourage the traders to participate. The group was advised that Mr Wilcox has published an article in the Town Centre Gazette that if anyone wishing to set up a group they can contact the Town Centre Management team.

5. CHRISTMAS TREET PLANTING SILOH SQUARE

Mr Highway passed apologies to the group for Mr Dallimore. The following update from Mr Dallimore was read to the group

“I have spoken to members of the group on the matter of a permanent Christmas tree in the square. I said I would take this forward by inviting the Council’s tree officer to site to establish if there was enough capacity underground to fit the necessary tree pit to accommodate the trees root ball without interfering with existing utility and drainage runs. This meeting is yet to take place”.

Councillor M James confirmed that he has spoken to Mr Dallimore who has advised that the options can still be discussed. Councillors M James and Angel would like to attend the meeting with the tree officer.

The Chair expressed the urgency for this matter to be resolved, as Amber Skips have offered to pay for the tree and the lights to be placed in the square. This would be a huge saving to the partnership as each year they have to pay between £700 to £800 for a Christmas tree to be installed and electricity costs.

6. TOWN CENTRE BOUNDARY

Mr Highway produced a copy of the LDP plan and distributed a copy to each member in the group.

Concern was raised over what has been included or not included in the plan that makes up the Town. The group were advised that LDP is currently being reviewed and so any concerns should be passed to Rhian Kyte in Planning. Members are asked to email ldp@caerphilly.gov.uk with any concerns. There is a preferred strategy to be produced in October.

7. AUDIT

Councillor M James informed the group that the repainting of yellow lines in Oakfield Street is not complete as there is a section that has been missed. The Chair recalled that a vehicle had been set on fire and remained in the same place for approximately 5-6 weeks waiting on Insurance Company. This may possibly be the reason the section was missed. Mr Campbell will look into this matter.

Mr Campbell advised that with regard to the review of traffic order he has written to the Community wardens and Taxi Association requesting information on the use of the taxi bay but he has not received a response. This matter will be raised in the next Traffic Order review with a possibility of introducing limited waiting, adding or removing yellow lines. This will more than likely be in the new financial year.

It was requested that both Councillor Angel and Councillor M James be invited to the meeting.

Mr Campbell advised the group that he had spoken to Mr Huw Morgan from Transport and read the following update from Mr Morgan

“The Siloh Chapel bus stop was established over a decade ago as a common stop for all services travelling south from Ystrad Mynach. Previously, services had departed from the Beech and Pengam Road, which made it difficult for passengers travelling to Caerphilly, as the route from Ystrad Mynach is common and having split stops caused frustration for passengers wanting to travel to Llanbradach or Caerphilly. As the services serving the centre of Ystrad Mynach come from different directions, it would not be possible for all services to revert to Pengam Road, as suggested (buses from Gelligaer approach from Penallta Road, so could not serve a stop on Pengam Road).

There are no car parking spaces opposite the bus stop - there are yellow lines in place and cars parked here do so illegally. I suggest this is the issue that needs to be addressed as the traffic flow through the town is severely restricted when cars wait here.”

Councillor M James requested that Mr Campbell convey to Mr Morgan that he disagrees with the comments Mr Morgan has made, as there is already a bus stop on Penallta Road, which has been used for a considerable number of years.

Meeting closed 15:16

CHAIRMAN