

# **CAERPHILLY COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

## **YSTRAD MYNACH TOWN CENTRE FORUM**

### **MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT TREDOMEN ON WEDNESDAY 21ST JULY 1999 AT 4.00PM**

PRESENT:

Councillors:

P.J. Bevan, R. Cook, Mrs. J.A. Pritchard, D.T. Smith

M.G. Parker - by invitation

#### **REPRESENTATIVES**

##### **Gelligaer Community Council**

Community Councillors A.P. Angel and Mrs. Richards

##### **GAVO**

Mrs. G. Genner

##### **Groundwork, Caerphilly**

Mr. N. Forster

##### **Gwent Constabulary**

Inspector J. Fudge

##### **Lewis Girls Comprehensive School**

Dr. S. Noake

##### **Ystrad Mynach College**

Mr. B. Davies

Together with:

Strategic Planning and Urban Renewal Manager, Principal Engineer (Management and Regulation), Principal Environmental Health Officer, Principal Engineer (Liaison and Monitoring), Principal Planner (Urban Renewal), Senior Committee Services Officer

#### **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Community Councillor Mrs. J.V. Cook and Ms. C. McLean (Welsh Development Agency).

#### **CHAIRMAN**

RESOLVED that Councillor R. Cook be appointed Chairman of the Ystrad Mynach Town Centre Forum.

## **VICE CHAIRMAN**

RESOLVED that Councillor D.T. Smith be appointed Vice Chairman of the Ystrad Mynach Town Centre Forum.

## **INTRODUCTIONS FROM REPRESENTATIVES AND MEMBERS**

The representatives introduced themselves and identified the organisations they represented. Members and Officers of the County Borough did likewise.

## **MINUTES**

The minutes of the meetings held on 15th February 1999 were received and noted.

## **TOWN CENTRE ENHANCEMENTS**

Consideration was given to the report of Officers which outlined progress to date, ongoing works, the programme for 1999/2000 and, with the aid of slide presentations, each aspect was outlined in detail as follows.

### **Schemes Undertaken by Groundwork**

Details of the range of projects which have been undertaken or are in the process of being undertaken by Groundwork were outlined by Mr. Forster with the aid of a slide presentation.

Reference was made to the works completed on the A469/A472 Green Street (from Mill Forge to the Royal Oak), Royal Oak Gateway (including the reconstruction of stone walling, pavements and traffic islands), roundabouts at Tredomen and Tesco, Ystrad Mynach Park, Hengoed Institute Field, Griffiths Street play area, playground painting (with assistance from Gelligaer Community Council), and the railings around the park and the hospital. Reference was also made to the completed stages of the south Wales cycle route.

Community led projects at the Church Hall, Cefn Hengoed Baptist Chapel, Church Street woodland, Maesycwmmmer woodland, Hengoed Community Centre and other projects being discussed with various organisations including the Church Hall Committee, Cefn Hengoed Baptist Chapel and school projects with Hengoed Primary School were noted. Other ongoing schemes in respect of environmental education and business environmental partnership including works at the Duffryn Industrial Estate (in partnership with the Council and the Welsh Development Agency) were also noted.

### **Ystrad Mynach Regeneration Strategy**

With the aid of a slide presentation, the Strategic Planning and Urban Renewal Manager summarised the progress to date in the implementation of the Ystrad Mynach regeneration strategy and outlined the plans for the final year of the challenge funding.

Key achievements to date have included the calming of traffic in the main shopping streets, and enhancement of the town's infrastructure and building fabric, eight businesses in the town centre have been upgraded with assistance through the Commercial Improvement Grant scheme. Complementary initiatives by Groundwork have focused improvements to the approaches to the town and at key entry points. It was noted that at the same time, public sector investment has fuelled private sector interest in important sites at Tredomen and on Penallta Road and the success of the Councils bid for Art Lottery funding has enhanced the programme.

Details of works during the first year of funding in relation to the three major projects, the extension of the car park and new access, a new roundabout at Tredomen and the development of the Trinity Fields Special school were outlined. It was reported that in 1998/99 the main contract for the environmental improvements and traffic calming was completed. The scheme included new street furniture and lighting as well as high quality paving, improved pedestrian spaces, a CCTV system, a planting scheme to complement the town centre enhancement works, artist designed railings at the front of the Pierhead building and traffic calming of Lewis Street.

The programme for 1999/2000 with the acquisition of land at Siloh chapel and its development as a public square at the centre of the town, traffic calming of Commercial Street and Central Street and other projects include signing, continuation of the commercial improvement grant programme and resurfacing of the carriageways were outlined.

Reference was also made to the Pengam Road retail development and it was noted that discussions in relation to the site were ongoing. It was agreed that a representative from the Police Authority estates department should be invited to the next meeting to discuss the timescale for the relocation of staff and the subsequent demolition of the existing police station building.

### **Public Art**

It was noted that the success of the Council's bid for Art Lottery funding has allowed a programme of public artworks to be commissioned throughout the town and, as such, artists have been appointed to work on the new Siloh Square and the public space fronting the library.

### **Siloh Square**

With the aid of slides, a model and examples of the proposed materials to be used, Mrs Rachel Fenner outlined the proposals for the development of the land as a public square which were in keeping with the history of the area. Included in the proposals are a path maze, font shaped water feature, railings and seating and the artwork which will be an integral part of the square. It was noted that the area will be the subject of CCTV coverage.

Concern was expressed at the amount of litter which could be generated by people using the square and the limited number of litter bins within the proposal. It was agreed that officers should investigate the feasibility of providing additional litter bins in the vicinity of the square and ensure the emptying of the existing litter bins is carried out on a regular basis.

### **Library**

Mr. Mark Rome gave a presentation on behalf of Artwork Wales in relation to the proposals for the library. The design of alphabetical stainless steel tiles in letters, sign language, braille, semaphore and finger spelling were viewed by those present.

It was confirmed that both designs would be on display in the Library over the next few weeks.