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Date: 12th September 2017

Dear Sir/Madam,

A meeting of the **Blackwood Town Centre Management Group** will be held in the **Ebbw Room, Penallta House, Tredomen, Ystrad Mynach** on **Tuesday, 19th September, 2017** at **2.00 pm** to consider the matters contained in the following agenda. You are welcome to use Welsh at the meeting, a minimum notice period of 3 working days is required should you wish to do so. A simultaneous translation will be provided if requested.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Chris Burns'.

Chris Burns
INTERIM CHIEF EXECUTIVE

AGENDA

	Pages
1 To appoint a Chair and Vice-Chair for the ensuing year.	
2 To receive apologies for absence.	
3 Declarations of Interest.	

Councillors and Officers are reminded of their personal responsibility to declare any personal and/or prejudicial interest(s) in respect of any item of business on this agenda in accordance with the Local Government Act 2000, the Council's Constitution, and the Code of Conduct for both Councillors and Officers.

A greener place Man gwyrddach



To receive and note the following minutes: -

4 Minutes of previous 28th February 2017. 1 - 6

To receive and note the following updates: -

5 Update on matters relating to Blackwood Town. 7 - 12

6 Audit. 13 - 20

Circulation:

Councillors N. Dix, K. Etheridge, A. Farina-Childs, G. Simmonds, T.J. Williams, S. Morgan, D.T. Davies and Mrs C. Forehead

Town Councillors

Other Organisations



BLACKWOOD TOWN CENTRE MANAGEMENT GROUP

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT THE COUNCIL OFFICES, PENALLTA HOUSE ON TUESDAY 28TH FEBRUARY 2017 AT 2:00 P.M.

PRESENT:

Councillors:

Councillors: P. Cook, N. Dix, C. Hawker, K. James, T. Williams

Together with:

Town Councillors: Z. Hammond, J. Hold (Clerk)

Also:

A. Highway (Town Centre Development Manager), A. Dallimore (Team Leader – Urban Renewal & Conservation), P. Hudson (Marketing & Events Manager), S. Wilcox (Assistant Town Centre Manager), G. Richards (Highways Maintenance Manager), Ins. J. White (Gwent Police) & H. Edwards (Blackwood Retail Partnership)

1. TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillors: A. Rees

C. Erasmus (Blackwood Town Council), Andrea Jones (Clerk).

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING 9TH SEPTEMBER 2016

The minutes were taken as read.

4. BUSINESS REPORT

Mr Highway presented his report to the group, which summarised the number of businesses that opened and closed throughout 2016, along with the footfall information and initiatives carried out by the Town Centre Management Team.

During the beginning of 2016, a large number of businesses closed in the town. However, the opening of Costa bucked the trend and saw a lot of new businesses open throughout the town and on Pentwyn Road.

The largest retail space in the town centre – Store 21 – recently closed and is currently a pop-

up charity shop. Work is being undertaken with the owner and agents to actively promote the store.

A number of initiatives were carried out throughout the year to promote the town centres and maintain footfall. These included the “Choose the High Street” Stories & Christmas Voucher Booklet, the new Go2MyTown website, introduction of the GovDelivery e-mail marketing system and production of the Town Centre Gazette.

Mr. Highway thanked Mr. Hudson and his team for the summer and Christmas events in the town, which were highly regarded by retailers and visitors alike.

It was noted that Blackwood is now the top performing town in terms of footfall figures.

2017 is likely to present several challenges for businesses including the Business Rates Review and Brexit, which is leading to uncertainty amongst consumers and businesses.

Cllr. James noted that the footfall in Blackwood is doing very well and this is a positive sign for the future of the town.

Cllr. Cook asked what effect the Rates Review will have on small businesses. Mr. Highway explained that a brief assessment of the changes in business rates had been undertaken by checking sample addresses in both High Street and the Market Place, although not definitive it appears that many business rateable values on High Street have fallen whilst in the Market Place they appear to have risen. There are several rate relief schemes available to small businesses, many of which will be applied automatically more details are available through the Council’s NNDR section.

Mr. Hold asked if a Business Rates briefing paper could be produced for circulation to Town Councillors. Mr. Highway agreed to send information via e-mail.

The Chair thanked Mr. Highway for his report.

5. ‘CHOOSE THE HIGH STREET’ CHRISTMAS VOUCHER BOOKLET ANALYSIS

Mr. Highway noted that the scheme has now been in operation for several years and 2016 was the most successful to date with a total of 112 offers received.

Mr. Highway extended special thanks to the Graphic Design team for their work designing the booklet and to the Community Safety Wardens for distributing the booklets to the various collection points.

The booklet not only marketed the five managed town centres, but also contained adverts for the various Christmas events across the Borough as well as various CCBC services.

30,000 booklets were produced, which were available in Blackwood Library, The Maxime Cinema, Tidal’s Store, ASDA and Blackwood Miners’ Institute. The supermarkets agreeing to stock the booklets has greatly assisted the distribution of the booklets and Tesco stocked them in other town centres for the first time this year.

A survey was sent out to participating businesses after the Christmas period. Although the response rate was quite poor, it did highlight that feelings towards the scheme are generally positive. However, the bus advertising – used for the first time this year – was not deemed to be successful and this is something to consider for future years.

Mr. Edwards thanked the Council for its support. Independent retailers are keen to make use of all available marketing platforms and a widespread, free opportunity such as the Christmas Voucher Booklet is very much appreciated.

The Chair thanked Mr Highway for the report and the hard work of the team.

6. COBBLED LANE, HIGH STREET (SIDE OF FLOUR MILL)

Mr. Richards informed the group that £10k has been secured internally to carry out work on the lane. Contractors have been on site for 3-weeks. The cobbles are being removed, cleaned and repointed. The work is due to be finished in the next few weeks, with any budgetary shortfall being looked at in the next financial year.

Mr. Dallimore explained that there was a strong local feeling on the historical value of these cobbled sites, which is why Officers persevered to secure internal funding for the scheme.

The Chair thanked Mr. Richards and all other Officers involved.

7. SUMMER EVENTS

Mr. Hudson is currently in the process of planning the 2017 events programme. Blackwood Beach Party is due to return on 1st & 2nd July. There was a welcome addition to the event last year with the Town Council musical event coinciding with it. Mr. Hudson and his team are keen to work with the Town Council this year too.

The beach theme of the event will be extended into the High Street this year with activities such as Punch & Judy and donkey rides. The entertainment programme will also be enhanced this year.

To date, 20 stallholder applications have been received.

Mr. Hold thanked Mr. Hudson and his team on behalf of the Town Council. Blackwood carnival is scheduled to take place on the Sunday of the Beach Party and the activities will be focused in The Market Place so that it links nicely with the town centre event.

8. PROCUREMENT OF FOOTFALL COUNTER PROVIDER

Mr. Wilcox informed the group that the contract for the footfall counter provision has recently expired. Following a tender process, a new supplier has been appointed – PFM Footfall Intelligence. There will be a period of transition where the old supplier's service and equipment is removed and the new supplier installs its equipment. This is likely to take place in early July, but Officers will work with the companies to ensure that any downtime is kept to a minimum.

The Chair thanked Mr. Wilcox for the update.

9. THE MARKET PLACE REDEVELOPMENT

Mr. Highway read out an e-mail from The Market Place Manager on work that will be taking place in the coming months:

“A programme of refurbishment is underway including: cleaning of the canopies and jet washing of the market square itself. During the summer there will be painting works carried out and repairs to the steps.

The former Somerfield unit was subject to a planning application in November last year. Consent was given to subdivide the existing A1 unit into three units with one unit going from

A1 retail to D2 gym. The planning application was subjected to a number of conditions relating to: noise, installation of plant equipment and opening times.”

The Chair thanked Mr. Highway for obtaining the update and noted that since the old Somerfield has been vacant for so long, it’s encouraging that somebody is finally investing in it.

10. ALDI REDEVELOPMENT

Mr. Highway noted that the site was subject to a planning application in November last year, permission was granted for a change of use to A2 (Financial Professional Service) Employment Centre.

Mr. Dallimore pointed out that just because planning permission has been granted, it doesn’t necessarily mean that a tenant has been secured.

Mr. Hold expressed concern and the incidents of vandalism on the neighbouring St. Margaret’s Church and hopes that a new tenant will reduce such occurrences. Ins. White responded by noting that some information has been received on the recent graffiti on the building and an arrest will be made shortly.

11. RED LION UPDATE

Mr. Dallimore has been working with colleagues in Planning Enforcement who are due to serve a S.215 notice on the owner of the site, which means that they must take steps to improve its appearance. In the meantime, there has been a dialogue with Pobl Housing Association for a proposed housing scheme on the site. Some drawings have been produced and these will be brought to a future meeting of the group for information. The scheme will involve all existing buildings being demolished.

Mr. Hold has received copy of the drawings, which were circulated to Town Councillors. The façade of the new buildings is in keeping with Blackwood Miners’ Institute and would be as asset for the town. As such, the Town Council is very supportive of the proposal.

10. AUDIT

Mr. Highway presented the Audit and the following items were raised:

Poundstretcher site – No update has been received from the owner or agent. However, the owner has been provided with details of the Town Centre Loan Fund, which could be used to redevelop the building.

Toilet Block Enhancement – Mr. Highway read an e-mail from Mr. Mike Jones in Planning Enforcement:

“Concerning the Former Public Toilets, High Street, Blackwood, I have sought authority to issue a notice under Section 215 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 as amended, in respect of land in a poor state of amenity. That authority has been granted under delegated powers.

I have written to the joint owners again giving them the opportunity to tidy the site, and asking them to: cut back all the overgrowth present on the land, including grass, weeds and brambles; remove from the land any materials resulting from those works, together with any debris, rubbish or litter that is present on the land; secure shut any doors or windows in the building.

The informal period allowed to carry out the works expires on 8th March 2017. (I checked the site on Friday of last week and nothing appeared to have been done up to that point).

If our request has not been complied with by that date then formal action will be taken.

The owners have a right of appeal against a Sec. 215 Notice, such an appeal would be made to the Welsh Ministers.”

The Chair wished to thank Mr. Jones.

Wesley Road Steps – Parks Services have been leading on the project. The work on the steps is complete and another project will be carried out on the footpath before the end of March.

Antisocial behaviour – Ins. White noted that very low levels of antisocial behaviour have been reported recently. However, the issue does now seem to be concentrated around KFC and McDonald's. A problem-solving group looking at antisocial behaviour throughout the town centre will be set up in due course. Plain-clothed officers have been doing patrols in and around the bus station and Market Place, which seems to have improved problems in that area.

Repainting of parking bays – the work is due to be completed by April.

Proposed amendment of Traffic Order – this is currently out to advert.

Demolition of former Guide Hall – disconnection of one utility is still pending. Demolition can progress rapidly once all utilities are decommissioned.

Letting of former Store 21 – the unit is currently being used as a pop-up charity shop while a long-term tenant is sought.

Spitting on cash machines – all banks in the town centre have been made aware of the issue and agreed to clean their ATMs.

There were no further issues raised.

The meeting closed 15:25.

CHAIR

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BLACKWOOD TOWN CENTRE MANAGEMENT GROUP – 19TH SEPTEMBER 2017

SUBJECT: UPDATE ON MATTERS RELATING TO BLACKWOOD TOWN

REPORT BY: TOWN CENTRE DEVELOPMENT MANAGER

1. TIME OF MEETING

- 1.1 A request received from Town? Councillor Darren Jones to review the time of the meeting.

2. NEW UNIQUE PLACES

- 2.1 A new version of the 'Unique Places' document has been produced. The latest version for the first time includes details of Ystrad Mynach town centre and also features a revised text in respect of Bargoed town centre reflecting the changes in the town due to the BIG Idea regeneration scheme.
- 2.2 The document is predominately used as an inward investment tool to respond to enquires relating to the five managed town centres. It is also a key element in Town Centre Managements proactive engagement with multiple retailers in respect of town centre vacancies and forms the basis of the 'Welcome Pack' supplied to new town centre business.

3. CHOOSE THE HIGH STREET CHRISTMAS VOUCHER BOOKLET

- 3.1 The 'Choose the High Street' Christmas Voucher Booklet has proved very popular with the public and retailers and will again be produced in 2017. The aims of the scheme are twofold:
1. Provide local businesses with an opportunity to capture consumer spend during the Christmas period;
 2. Market the diverse retail offer contained in the town centres.

Retailers in the five managed town centres will have the opportunity to be included in the booklet. The booklets will be given out in local supermarkets, libraries and at other key locations.

4. RED LION SITE UPDATE

- 4.1 Pobl Housing Association are taking forward a housing development at the Red Lion site at the northern end of the High Street. Their planning application for a total of 17 residential apartments in 2 blocks (three storey and four storey) was approved by CCBC on the 21st July 2017.

4.2 The approval is for the demolition of the Red Lion Inn and its re-development to provide 17 no. residential apartments (11 one bed and 6 two bed) together with associated vehicular and pedestrian accesses, 17 No. car parking spaces, amenity areas, landscaping and ancillary development.

Dimensions: Block 1 (that fronts onto High Street) has an 'L' shaped footprint with maximum dimensions of 16.2 metres in width, 20.1 metres in depth, with a maximum height of 14.0 metres (4 stories).

Block 2 (located to the rear of Block 1) measures 11.0 metres in depth, 12.5 metres in width, with a height of 12.3 metres to ridge level (3 storeys).

Materials: Walls: Rusticated render, sand cement render and buff facing brickwork.

Roofs: Blue/black cement fibre roof tiles;

Rough cast stone walls;

Colour coated windows, doors and rainwater goods.

Ancillary development, e.g. parking: Off-street parking for 17 cars, amenity areas, clothes drying areas, and refuse areas.

3D Images of the Proposed Development

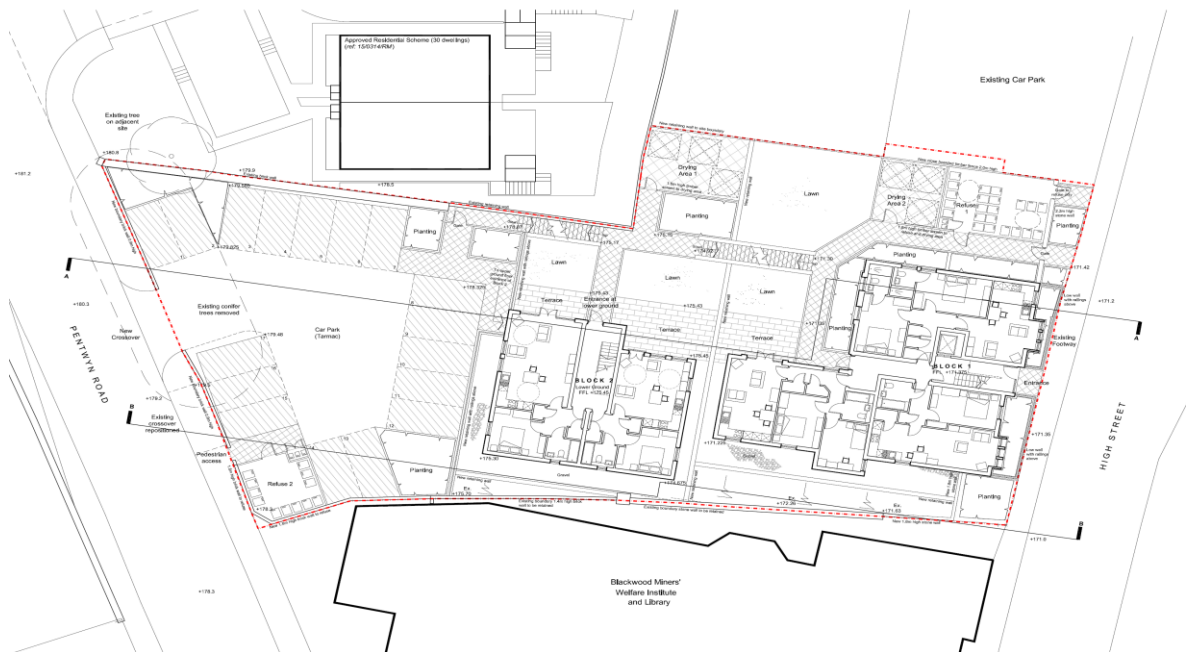




Front Elevation



Plan of Development



Pobl Housing Association intend to enter into contract with Ixion Development, the contractor building out the old Blackwood School site, in the next month or so with a start on site later in the year.

5. BARCLAYS BANK SITE UPDATE

- 5.1 Pobl are still reviewing 83 High Street, the construction costs are significant due to the site constraint's which means it requires tower cranes to undertake the build. There may be an opportunity to potentially apply for a new WG grant initiative which could assist in putting a funding package together. Therefore the scheme has been delayed whilst this financial issue is investigated further.

6. TOILET BLOCK UPDATE

- 6.1 Enforcement notices under Section 215 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 as amended have been drafted in respect of the site referred to above. The drafts have been sent to be translated. The notices will require that the overgrowth is cut back and the resulting materials, together with any rubbish, litter, etc. be removed from the land. They will be sent out as soon as possible after they are received back from being translated. There was an issue which needed to be clarified as to the right of appeal against such a notice, the legislation has been changed and appeals are now made to the Welsh Ministers and not as had been the case in the past to the Magistrates Court, but there was no guidance readily available as to how the changes were to be implemented.

7. SUMMER AND CHRISTMAS EVENTS UPDATE

- 7.1 Stall applications have been sent out to potential stall holders with respect to the Christmas Market and following a busy summer of events, staff are now going through the process of allocating stall pitches and working on a layout to incorporate the stall pitches alongside Christmas themed activities and funfair attractions.
- 7.2 The summer event was held over two days and was well received by the towns retail community offering them a promotional focus and increased footfall numbers

8. CHOOSE THE HIGH STREET PROPERTY INDEX

- 8.1 Following the closure of the Go2 My Town website earlier this year a new version of the 'Retail Property Index' has been developed and is available to view online via the Council's website. The Property Index lists every property for sale or let in Caerphilly, Blackwood, Bargoed, Risca and Ystrad Mynach town centres.

9. PROCUREMENT OF FOOTFALL COUNTER

- 9.1 The new footfall counters were installed in mid-August by a new provider – *PFM Footfall Intelligence*. The systems have been successfully calibrated and validated and are sending back data.
- 9.2 To ensure continuity with all historical footfall data, the new equipment has been installed in the same location as the existing counters. The only exception to this is the Bargoed (North) counter, which has been decommissioned as part of the department's Medium Term Financial Plan savings. This change also provides consistency throughout the town centres as they all now have one counter.

10. ALDI UPDATE

- 10.1 The Department of Work & Pensions have confirmed that following the completion of commercial negotiations it plans to open a new Jobcentre in Blackwood located at the former Aldi shop premises on the High Street.

11. POUND STRETCHER SITE

- 11.1 The insurance claim for the fire on the site remains to be settled, however the owners are keen to redevelop it and have several potential clients interested.

12. PARKING ENFORCEMENT

- 12.1 The issue of Civil Parking Enforcement is currently being considered by the Council. As part of this process officers are working alongside colleagues in neighbouring authorities and Gwent Police to explore the various options available. The matter is included on the draft forward work programme of the Regeneration and Environment Scrutiny Committee. The Scrutiny Committee will consider and confirm its forward work programme at its next meeting on 20th September 2017. At present the Authority's future proposals are being developed and still remain to be finalised. It is anticipated that the proposals will be subject to a wider consultation with Members prior to seeking Cabinet confirmation and Council approval.

Author: Andrew Highway – Town Centre Development Manager
Consultees: Andrew Highway – Town Centre Development Manager
Steve Wilcox – Assistant Town Centre Manager
Allan Dallimore – Team Leader Urban Renewal and Conservation
Marcus Lloyd – Deputy Head of Programmes
Mike Jones – Principal Enforcement Officer
Paul Hudson – Marketing and Events Manager

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BLACKWOOD TOWN CENTRE AUDIT – JUNE 2017

DATE	ISSUE	DEPARTMENT	PROGRESS UPDATE
02/10/13	<p><u>Poundstretcher Site High Street</u> Officers continue to work with Poundstretchers in an attempt to rebuild the store and enable the retailer to return to the town centre.</p>	<p>Town Centre Management <i>Andrew Highway</i></p>	<p>PLEASE SEE PREVIOUS AUDITS FOR A FULL HISTORY OF THIS ISSUE</p> <p>14/2 No update has been received from the site's owner or agent. 28/2 An update was provided to the TCMG.</p>
16/05/14	<p><u>Toilet Block Enhancement High Street</u> At the TCMG, it was agreed that proposals would be developed to try and improve the appearance of the disused toilet block on High Street. Should the proposals be approved, the Area Forum Budget may fund the scheme.</p>	<p>Urban Renewal <i>Allan Dallimore</i></p>	<p>PLEASE SEE PREVIOUS AUDITS FOR A FULL HISTORY OF THIS ISSUE</p> <p>14/2 One last letter is being sent to the owner before a S.215 notice is served. Authority to serve the notice has already been granted. 28/2 An update was provided to the TCMG.</p>
18/08/15	<p><u>Condition of Steps R/O Wesley Road Car Park</u> Cllr. Dix has received complaints in relation to the steps leading from Wesley Road car park to Morrison Street. The steps require some repairs to make them easier to traverse.</p>	<p>Parks <i>Mike Headington</i></p> <p>Highways <i>Gavin Barry</i></p>	<p>PLEASE SEE PREVIOUS AUDITS FOR A FULL HISTORY OF THIS ISSUE</p> <p>14/2 The vegetation in the area has been treated. The outstanding work will be completed and funded from the Area Forum Budget. 28/2 An update was provided to the TCMG.</p>

11/04/16	<p><u>Antisocial Behaviour</u> <u>Bus Station/The Market Place</u></p> <p>At the TCIG, it was noted that there are ongoing problems in the bus station and the surrounding area in relation to antisocial behaviour linked to the sale and/or consumption of alcohol in the area.</p>	<p>Police <i>Ins Neesam</i></p> <p>Community Safety <i>Paul Wallen</i></p> <p>Licensing <i>Myra McSherry</i></p>	<p>PLEASE SEE PREVIOUS AUDITS FOR A FULL HISTORY OF THIS ISSUE</p> <p>14/2 The situation is greatly improved with only 3 incidents reported in January. 28/2 An update was provided to the TCMG.</p>
27/04/16	<p><u>Repaint Carriageway Lines Denoting Parking Bay Restrictions</u> <u>High Street</u></p> <p>Following resurfacing works, the old lines on the carriageway are now visible and the new ones are work and broken.</p>	<p>Police <i>Ins Neesam</i></p> <p>Highways <i>Gavin Barry</i></p>	<p>PLEASE SEE PREVIOUS AUDITS FOR A FULL HISTORY OF THIS ISSUE</p> <p>14/2 The re-lining work is ongoing. 28/2 An update was provided to the TCMG.</p>
27/04/16	<p><u>Proposed Amendment of Traffic Order</u> <u>High Street</u></p> <p>Following a site meeting instigated by the Police, it was agreed to review the Traffic Order and in particular consider the following issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Add yellow chevrons to the loading bays; • Change the shared loading bay & taxi rank O/S <i>The New Foresters</i> to a loading bay; • Remove the loading bay O/S <i>Flavour Vapour & Barclays Bank</i>. 	<p>Transportation <i>Dean Smith</i></p> <p>Police <i>Ins Neesam</i></p>	<p>PLEASE SEE PREVIOUS AUDITS FOR A FULL HISTORY OF THIS ISSUE</p> <p>13/12 The TRO is due to be advertised in January 2017. 14/2 The TRO process is progressing. Issue Closed 14/2</p>
27/04/16	<p><u>Repainting Yellow Kerb Lines</u> <u>Bridge Street/High Street</u></p> <p>The lines in this area need to be added to the kerbs outside the shops opposite the junction with Bridge Street to deter illegal parking.</p>	<p>Highways <i>Gavin Barry</i></p> <p>Police <i>Ins Neesam</i></p>	<p>PLEASE SEE PREVIOUS AUDITS FOR A FULL HISTORY OF THIS ISSUE</p> <p>14/2 The re-lining work is ongoing. 28/2 An update was provided to the TCMG.</p>

06/05/16	<p><u>Former Guide Hall High Street</u> The former Guide Hall behind High Street is in a poor condition and people appear to have gained entry. There is evidence of drinking and drug use within the building.</p>	<p>Regulatory Planning <i>Tim Stephens</i></p> <p>Environmental Health <i>Lyndon Ross</i></p> <p>Community Safety <i>Paul Wallen</i></p> <p>Police <i>Ins Neesam</i></p>	<p>PLEASE SEE PREVIOUS AUDITS FOR A FULL HISTORY OF THIS ISSUE</p> <p>14/2 The final outstanding utility will be capped off shortly and demolition will proceed in due course. 28/2 An update was provided to the TCMG.</p>
23/05/16	<p><u>Car Cruisers Road Closure High Street</u> Following the extensive car cruiser issue, which occurred in the town a number of years ago, a full road closure was implemented on High Street every Thursday night by the Police. In recent weeks this has not been implemented leading to vehicles once again using the street, sounding their horns and playing loud music. This behaviour has led to a number of complaints from residents to local Councillors.</p>	<p>Police <i>Ins Neesam</i></p>	<p>PLEASE SEE PREVIOUS AUDITS FOR A FULL HISTORY OF THIS ISSUE</p> <p>14/2 The situation continues to be monitored, but there no longer seems to be a problem.</p>
06/07/16	<p><u>Deep Clean Bus Station</u> Cllr. Dix requested a deep clean of the bus station ceiling and lighting following complaints from residents.</p>	<p>Transportation <i>Dean Smith</i></p>	<p>PLEASE SEE PREVIOUS AUDITS FOR A FULL HISTORY OF THIS ISSUE</p> <p>14/2 Options of how to complete the cleaning at height are currently being considered.</p>

27/09/16	<p><u>Rubbish & Weeds</u> <u>Interchange Bus Station</u> Cllr Dix has received a complaint that the area around the station is in need of weeding and a litter pick.</p>	<p>Transportation <i>Dean Smith</i></p> <p>Parks <i>Mike Headington</i></p> <p>Cleansing <i>Tony White</i></p>	<p>PLEASE SEE PREVIOUS AUDITS FOR A FULL HISTORY OF THIS ISSUE</p> <p>13/12 The weeds have been treated and removed. 14/2 The weeds have been treated and the rubbish removed. Issue Closed 14/2</p>
03/10/16	<p><u>Surface Issues – Historical Cobbles</u> <u>Lane Leading from Flour Mill to Cefn Road</u> The lane has been an ongoing maintenance issue for a number of years. It is unclear if the cobbles are of any historical value but due to their unsafe condition Highways intervention is now required.</p>	<p>Highways <i>Gavin Barry</i></p>	<p>PLEASE SEE PREVIOUS AUDITS FOR A FULL HISTORY OF THIS ISSUE</p> <p>14/2 The cobbles have been dug up and are being re-laid and repointed by stone masons. 28/2 An update was provided to the TCMG.</p>
20/10/16	<p><u>Cleaning of Electronic Signs</u> <u>Town Centre</u> The “road closed” electronic signs at each end of the High Street have become badly weathered. They require cleaning to increase their visibility.</p>	<p>Highways <i>Gavin Barry</i></p>	<p>PLEASE SEE PREVIOUS AUDITS FOR A FULL HISTORY OF THIS ISSUE</p> <p>14/2 No update could be provided. 28/2 An update was provided to the TCMG.</p>
12/12/16	<p><u>Works to Unit 23 (Former Somerfield Store)</u> <u>The Market Place Shopping Centre</u> The owners of the Centre have instigated a series of works to the building in order to attract a new tenant.</p>	<p>Regulatory Planning <i>Tim Stephens</i></p> <p>Town Centre Management <i>Andrew Highway</i></p>	<p>13/12 Work has commenced on site with a roofing contractor. A planning application is expected for a change of use. Details of the new Town Centre Loans Scheme have been passed on an expression of interest sought. 14/2 Planning permission has been granted and work on the site is due to start shortly. Issue Closed 14/2</p>

12/12/16	<p><u>Letting of Former Store 21 Building High Street</u> The closure of Store 21 retail shop has left one of the largest retail floor spaces in the town vacant.</p>	<p>Regulatory Planning <i>Tim Stephens</i></p> <p>Town Centre Management <i>Andrew Highway</i></p>	<p>PLEASE SEE PREVIOUS AUDITS FOR A FULL HISTORY OF THIS ISSUE</p> <p>14/2 The unit is currently being used as a charity shop on a pop-up lease. 28/2 An update was provided to the TCMG.</p>
03/01/17	<p><u>Littering & Accumulation of Rubbish High Street Car Park</u> Cllr. Rees noted that the High Street car park near Hall Street has a lot of litter dumped within, which is now beginning to accumulate.</p>	<p>Cleansing <i>Tony White</i></p> <p>Transportation <i>Dean Smith</i></p>	<p>14/2 The area has been cleaned. Issue Closed 14/2</p>
31/01/17	<p><u>Spitting on Cash Machines Town Centre</u> Local Members have been made aware that young people in the town centre are spitting on the ATM machines throughout the town centre. This is making them very unpleasant to use, which has led to complaints.</p>	<p>Police <i>Ins Neesam</i></p> <p>Community Safety <i>Paul Wallen</i></p>	<p>14/2 The bank staff were visited and asked to clean the machines. There have been no further incidents reported. Issue Closed 14/2</p>
21/02/17	<p><u>Litter Bin Fires Lane off Cliff Road</u> Cllr. Dix has received complaints from local residents that young people are taking large waste bins from the rear of shop units in High Street to the lane that leads to the river bridge and setting fire to them.</p>	<p>Police <i>Ins Neesam</i></p> <p>Community Safety <i>Paul Wallen</i></p>	<p>22/2 Following a site meeting, the feasibility of installing a CCTV camera in the vicinity will be investigated.</p>

28/03/17	<p><u>Retail Thefts</u> <u>Town Centre</u> Following complaints by retailers of problems using the 101 number to report retail thefts to Gwent Police, Town Centre Management have organised a meeting for retailers to meet with officers to discuss the matter on 6th April. Store managers throughout the town centre have been invited to attend.</p>	<p>Town Centre Management <i>Andrew Highway</i></p> <p>Police <i>Ins Neesam</i></p>	
08/05/17	<p><u>Former Red Lion Site</u> <u>High Street</u> The site is under consideration for a new scheme which would involve demolishing the existing building and constructing new houses.</p>	<p>Regulatory Planning <i>Tim Stephens</i></p>	28/3 A Planning Application (17/0230/ FULL) has been received for the site.
28/04/17	<p><u>Flyposting</u> <u>Town Centre</u> A complaint has been received in relation to flyposting in the town centre, particularly circus posters in the former Birmingham Balti.</p>	<p>Highways <i>Gavin Barry</i></p> <p>Cleansing <i>Tony White</i></p> <p>Regulatory Planning <i>Tim Stephens</i></p>	
28/04/17	<p><u>“Grot Spot” Cleaning</u> <u>Dragon Circle, Blackwood</u> The area next to ASDA known as the “Dragon Circle” is in need of pressure washing and litter picking.</p>	<p>Cleansing <i>Tony White</i></p>	

30/05/17	<p><u>Broken Street Sign</u> <u>High Street Junction Retail Park</u> The sign at the location appears to have been subject to a road traffic accident and is in need of repair</p>	<p>Highways <i>Gavin Barry</i></p>	
30/05/17	<p><u>Broken Bench</u> <u>High Street Junction Retail Park</u> The bench at the location has missing slats and is in need of repair.</p>	<p>Highways <i>Gavin Barry</i></p>	
06/06/17	<p><u>Wheelie Bin Blocking the Pavement</u> <u>High Street OS Former Poundstretchers Site</u> A complaint has been received that a large green wheelie bin is chained to the hoarding of the former Poundstretchers and is blocking the footway.</p>	<p>Town Centre Management <i>Andrew Highway</i></p>	6/6 A site visit confirmed that the bin belonged to Lui's Place. The owner was asked to remove it and has arranged a collection from the waste carrier for tomorrow.
06/06/17	<p><u>Safety Railing OS Blackwood Miners</u> <u>High Street</u> The base of the railings has corroded and they are in need of replacement.</p>	<p>Highways <i>Gavin Barry</i></p>	

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