

BLACKWOOD TOWN CENTRE AUDIT – FEBRUARY 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>9/9 An update was provided to the TCMG. 18/10 The site will shortly be marketed for a new tenant. The owner's agents are keen for the site to be used as retail again. 13/12 The owner has been given details of the Council's Town Centre Loan Scheme, but is not interested in applying for this.</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>9/9 An update was provided to the TCMG. 18/10 The owner has offered the site back to CCBC, which is unlikely to be accepted. Enforcement action is being considered. 13/12 Cleansing litter picks the area periodically. A Planning Enforcement letter has been sent to the owner, which has also been followed up. Additional enforcement is now being considered.</p>

18/08/15	<p><u>Condition of Steps</u> <u>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>9/9 An update was provided to the TCMG. 18/10 An instruction to NCS to carry out remedial works has been issued by Parks. 13/12 All health and safety issues have been addressed. A quote has been obtained for the remainder of the work, which will be allocated from the Area Forum Budget.</p>
11/04/16	<p><u>Antisocial Behaviour</u> <u>Bus Station/The Market Place</u> 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 White</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>9/9 An update was provided to the TCMG. 18/10 An attempt to re-establish a retail partnership for information sharing is underway. A problem-solving group meeting is also being arranged. 13/12 Only one incident of antisocial behaviour has been reported since a key individual was arrested and given a Community Behaviour Order in October.</p>
27/04/16	<p><u>Repaint Carriageway Lines Denoting Parking</u> <u>Bay Restrictions</u> <u>High Street</u> 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 White</i></p> <p>Highways <i>Gavin Barry</i></p>	<p>PLEASE SEE PREVIOUS AUDITS FOR A FULL HISTORY OF THIS ISSUE</p> <p>9/9 An update was provided to the TCMG. 18/10 This is currently with the lining contractor. 13/12 The lining contractor continues with work throughout the current financial year.</p>

27/04/16	<p><u>Proposed Amendment of Traffic Order 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 White</i></p>	<p>PLEASE SEE PREVIOUS AUDITS FOR A FULL HISTORY OF THIS ISSUE</p> <p>9/9 An update was provided to the TCMG. 18/10 The process to revise TRO is ongoing. 13/12 The TRO is due to be advertised in January 2017.</p>
27/04/16	<p><u>Repainting Yellow Kerb Lines 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 White</i></p>	<p>PLEASE SEE PREVIOUS AUDITS FOR A FULL HISTORY OF THIS ISSUE</p> <p>9/9 An update was provided to the TCMG. 18/10 This is currently with the lining contractor. 13/12 The lining contractor continues with work throughout the current financial year.</p>
06/05/16	<p><u>Former Guide Hall High Street</u></p> <p>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 White</i></p>	<p>PLEASE SEE PREVIOUS AUDITS FOR A FULL HISTORY OF THIS ISSUE</p> <p>9/9 An update was provided to the TCMG. 18/10 Utilities companies have not yet issued notice that supplies have been capped off, so demolition cannot yet take place. 13/12 Officers continue to chase the one utility that has not yet been capped off in order for the demolition to be carried out.</p>

23/05/16	<p><u>Car Cruisers Road Closure</u> <u>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 White</i></p>	<p>PLEASE SEE PREVIOUS AUDITS FOR A FULL HISTORY OF THIS ISSUE</p> <p>9/9 An update was provided to the TCMG. 18/10 Neighbourhood Policing Team will monitor Thursday evenings for the next 4 weeks before holding a review meeting on 27/10. Councillors will also be invited to patrol with officers one Thursday evening. 13/12 The road closure is no longer being carried out following the situation being monitored for 4 weeks. Since the cessation of the closure, no incidents have been recorded on CCTV either.</p>
08/06/16	<p><u>Wheelchair Accessibility</u> <u>Town Centre</u> Cllr. Rees and Cllr. Dix have received complaints from town centre users who struggle to navigate the town with wheelchair users. The issues include illegally parked vehicles causing obstruction & obscuring views and the gradient on ramps leading to & from car parks.</p>	<p>Urban Renewal <i>Allan Dallimore</i></p> <p>Transportation <i>Dean Smith</i></p> <p>Police <i>Ins White</i></p>	<p>PLEASE SEE PREVIOUS AUDITS FOR A FULL HISTORY OF THIS ISSUE</p> <p>9/9 An update was provided to the TCMG. 18/10 Parking enforcement will continue as many issues are down to illegally parked vehicles. 13/12 Parking enforcement continues. Issue Closed 13/12</p>
06/07/16	<p><u>Deep Clean</u> <u>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>16/8 The area will be cleaned when safety equipment is available. 18/10 Equipment is still being repaired, but work will be carried out as soon as possible. 13/12 No update could be provided.</p>

07/09/16	<p><u>Weeding and Grubbing Out of Steps</u> <u>Hall Street</u> Cllr Dix informed Officers that there are weeds growing through the steps leading from High Street to Hall Street. The area requires treatment and grubbing out.</p>	<p>Highways <i>Gavin Barry</i></p> <p>Parks <i>Mike Headington</i></p>	<p>18/10 The work is scheduled to be completed during w/c 17/10. 13/12 The work has been completed. Issue Closed 13/12</p>
09/09/16	<p><u>Anti-Social Behaviour Issues</u> <u>The Market Place Shopping Centre</u> The Centre Manager has reported to the Police that a number of youths are loitering in the mall and have lit small fires as well as being abusive to shoppers.</p>	<p>Police <i>Ins White</i></p> <p>Community Safety <i>Paul Wallen</i></p>	<p>10/10 There has been no increase in incidents reported in this area. Local officers continue to patrol this and surrounding areas as part of their local patrol plan. 18/10 A problem-solving meeting is in the process of being arranged. 13/12 Very few incidents have been reported during the last month. Issue Closed 13/12</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>27/9 Arrangements have been made to undertake a litter pick and remove the weeds. 18/10 The weeds have been treated and litter picked. The issue of litter will be discussed at the problem-solving group meeting. 13/12 The weeds have been treated and removed.</p>

03/10/16	<p><u>Surface Issues – Historical Cobbles 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>18/10 Maintenance options are being considered. The historical value of the paths is also being investigated. 16/11 Officers have devised a gentle interim cleanse of the paths. Following this, an assessment of the required remediation works can be carried out with small areas being repaired. A long term maintenance plan will then be developed. 13/12 Highways will be carrying out some sensitive cleaning on the surface while the historical significance of the site is investigated.</p>
20/10/16	<p><u>Cleaning of Electronic Signs 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>13/12 No update could be provided.</p>
12/12/16	<p><u>Works to Unit 23 (Former Somerfield Store) 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>12/12 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.</p>

12/12/16	<p><u>Letting of Former Store 21 Building</u> <u>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>Transportation <i>Dean Smith</i></p>	<p>12/12 Town Centre Management has met with the new owners on site to look at ways to bring the building back into use. Advice on change of use and Highways loading/unloading issues has been given to the owners. A temporary charity shop has been agreed. Details of the new Town Centre Loans Scheme have been passed on and an expression of interest sought.</p>
03/01/17	<p><u>Littering & Accumulation of Rubbish</u> <u>High Street Car Park</u> Cllr. Rees noted that the High Street car park near Hall Street has a lot of litter dumped within in, which is now beginning to accumulate.</p>	<p>Cleansing <i>Tony White</i></p>	
31/01/17	<p><u>Spitting on Cash Machines</u> <u>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 White</i></p> <p>Community Safety <i>Paul Wallen</i></p>	