



BARGOED TOWN CENTRE MANAGEMENT GROUP

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT THE COUNCIL OFFICES, PENALLTA HOUSE ON WEDNESDAY 5TH OCTOBER 2016 AT 2:00 P.M.

PRESENT:

Councillors:

Councillors: D. Carter, D. T. Davies, K. James, D. Price, K. Reynolds

Together with:

Town Councillors: V. Stephens, H. Llewellyn, D. Morgan, A. Collis & Mr P Collins (Bargoed Chamber of Trade)

Also:

A. Highway (Town Centre Development Manager), A. Dallimore (Team Leader – Urban Renewal & Conservation), P. Hudson (Marketing & Events Manager), & A. Jones (Clerk)

1. TO APPOINT A CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR FOR THE ENSUING YEAR

Mr Highway opened the meeting and requested nominations for the Chair. Councillor D Price nominated Councillor D T Davies and this nomination was seconded by Councillor Carter.

Councillor D T Davies invited nominations for Vice-Chair. Councillor Carter nominated Councillor D Price and this nomination was seconded by Councillor D T Davies.

Councillor D Price accepted the position.

2. TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillors: A. Higgs, Mr S Wilcox (Assistant Town Centre Manager), Inspector Muirhead (Gwent Police).

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING 16TH MARCH 2016

The minutes were taken as read.

5. 'CHOOSE THE HIGH STREET' STORIES

Mr Highway presented his report to the group.

The group were complimentary of the scheme and it was suggested that Bargoed had historic photographs that could possibly be sourced in a Bargoed Yearbook from 1930.

The Chair thanked Mr Highway and his team for their hard work.

6. 'CHOOSE THE HIGH STREET' CHRISTMAS VOUCHER BOOKLET

Mr Highway presented his report and showed the design of the booklet.

The group were advised that the booklets would be in production in the next few weeks.

Mr Highway informed the group that retailers are becoming more aware of the scheme as each year passes and already 30 retailers have submitted offers.

The group were advised that the offers received to date appear to be more competitive than in previous years.

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

7. GO2 MY TOWN VIRTUAL TOUR OF THE WEBSITE.

Mr Highway was not able to show the group the virtual tour of the Go2 My Town Website due to a technical issues with the rooms IT equipment. Mr Highway explained how the site works and the information available to businesses interested in setting up new businesses in the town centre and advised how to find the stories for each of the towns on the site.

8. TOURISM EVENT PROGRAMME – FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS

Mr Hudson presented the report to the group.

The chair advised the group that he had requested the report along with Councillor M James from the Ystrad Mynach Town Centre Management Group.

The group discussed the figures and all agreed that they do not reflect fully what Bargoed Town Council contributes as the report only lists the events that the Council Events programme runs and not the other events that the town council contributes to.

Members felt that the data clearly showed that Bargoed Town Council contribute a lot more to the events in Bargoed compared to other Town Councils.

Members agreed that the report should go to all groups. Councillor Reynolds agreed that the Council will need to look at the figures provided.

9. UPDATE UNIT SHOPS

Mr Dallimore informed the group that there was interest in units 3 & 4. The interest expressed is for office use which is being considered. Members asked why office use and not retails.

Mr Dallimore advised that the tenant was led by the market and at this time retailers are not looking for space in Bargoed therefore office use is the next best option which should increase footfall.

Mr Dallimore advised that in respect of Unit 7 being an A3 restaurant officers are waiting for the decision to be signed off by cabinet member.

Unit 6A is the only unit left with provisional interest from a high street name Mr Dallimore advised that he will keep the group updated.

The Chairman thanked Mr Dallimore and confirmed that things were looking positive.

10. LAND RESTORATION ADJACENT TO MORRISONS CAR PARK

Mr Dallimore informed the group that all planting has taken well cutting will take place fortnightly with 1 more cut this year.

Members commented that the site does look a lot better.

11. PHASE 2 UPDATE

Mr Dallimore advised the group that there has not been much interest for this site with regards to leisure/cinema use or houses. The group were told that the only interest being expressed is from A3 drive through operators and he asked the group for their views on whether this could be considered for the site.

The group discussed all options and advised that the site should be used for leisure and not A3 use, but will await update.

Mr Dallimore advised that there is no final timescale and will look at any funding available The Chairman thanked and Mr Dallimore and will await update.

12. AUDIT

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

Steps on Hanbury Road. Mr Dallimore informed the group that the Inspector has looked and confirmed that the steps are safe but is not happy about the way they look. The estimate for the works is £75K and he is trying to bid for money and will update the group on progress.

Channel block damage. Mr Dallimore advised that the problem is a design issue and concrete samples needed and will be chasing this up. The grids can be tightened down and he will look into this

There were no further issues raised.

The meeting closed 17:22.

CHAIR