



BARGOED TOWN CENTRE MANAGEMENT GROUP

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT PENALLTA HOUSE, YSTRAD MYNACH ON WEDNESDAY 11TH OCTOBER 2017 AT 4:00PM

PRESENT:

Councillors:

Collis, D. T. Davies, L. Harding, D. Price, S. Morgan

Together with:

Town & Community Councillor V. Stephens, Inspector O'Keefe & Mr D Collins (Bargoed Chamber of Trade)

Also:

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

1. TO APPOINT A CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR

Mr Highway opened the meeting and requested nominations for Chair.

Councillor Harding nominated Councillor D T Davies and was seconded by Councillor S Morgan.

Councillor Davies thanked members for nominating him and accepted the post and took over the meeting as Chair.

Councillor Davies invited members to nominate for Vice Chair.

Councillor S Morgan nominated Councillor A. Collis this was seconded by Councillor D. Price.

Councillor Collis accepted the post.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor C Andrews, Town Councillor S Horton.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made at the beginning or during the course of the meeting.

4. MINUTES – 5TH OCTOBER 2016

The minutes were taken as read.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS

5. UPDATE ON MATTERS RELATING TO BARGOED TOWN

Mr Highway introduced the report which provided an update on matters relating to Bargoed town centre

Members were referred to update 1 in the report relating to the new 'Unique Places' document.

Mr Highway provided information on the document and advised that a hard copy would be available, the document would also be included in welcome packs given to new businesses.

The Chair requested that copies be provided to the group. Mr Highway confirmed he would arrange that.

The Chair thanked Mr Highway.

Members were referred to update 2 in the report on the 'Choose the High Street' Christmas Voucher Booklet. Mr Highway informed the group that there were already 21 offers which is a good response. Booklets will be available in Morrisons and the library in Bargoed.

Mr Highway thanked Mr Wilcox for all his work. The Chair thanked Mr Highway.

Members were referred to update 3 in the report on Retail Plateau Phase 2.

Mr Dallimore advised that the first two paragraphs in the update is a background. Dialogue is ongoing. Approval for negotiations for the sale of land is taking place and heads of terms have been received. This will be referred to Cabinet as part of the process.

There is interest in the site and discussions are taking place with a pub/restaurant chain who view Bargoed as a strong site. Mr Dallimore is not able to disclose the name of the chain at present as the matter is commercially sensitive.

The group discussed the benefit of a pub/restaurant chain going on the site and saw it as positive step, rather than leaving the site as it is.

Members were referred to update 4 in the report on Lowri Plaza Lettings.

Mr Dallimore presented the update to the group. The group discussed the empty shops in High Street and commented on how footfall in the North of the town is low.

The Chair asked if there had been enquires made concerning these empty premises. Mr Collins confirmed that he had heard that there was interest in the former Greggs shop.

Members were referred to update 5 in the report on Bus Stop outside Gough Solicitors.

Mr Highway referred to the update and advised the group that he and other officers had met with Mr Gough and the local members. The outcome is that there is no scope to relocate the bus stop.

Members were referred to update 6 in the report on summer and Christmas Events.

The Group were informed that the Cinema event with a broadcast from Luke Evans was very successful. Luke's dad stayed until the end and he was very grateful to see a very good turnout.

Mr Hudson advised that arrangements for the Christmas event, is on target and he is looking to accommodate attractions being mindful that some shops have requested that they do not want them outside their premises. Councillor Stephens asked how much the cost was for the stalls. Mr Hudson confirmed the charge is £40 which is the same charge as last year.

In respect of the ice rink, the store manager of Morrison's has advised that the original date is not suitable. Mr Highway has been liaising with the temporary manager to agree an alternative one. A new company has expressed an interest in providing the rink and Mr Hudson is in discussions with them.

Councillor Llewellyn advised that the Town Council contribute a significant amount to the event and will look to replicate it again.

The Town Council will look to collaborate with the Council for the Christmas market by adding a Christmas lights switch on and big screen event.

The group discussed problems with the Christmas lights and Mr Dallimore agreed to meet with Tom to resolve any issues.

The group discussed the amount of contribution the Town Council provide for the events. It was agreed that Bargoed Town Council contribute a significant amount to the events. The Chair requested figures of what each town council contributes to the events held within their towns.

Members were referred to update 7 in the report on 'Choose the High Street' Retail Property Index.

Mr Highway confirmed that this information is available as a PDF document on Caerphilly Council Website.

Mr Highway would arrange to send copies to the Town Council if requested that if anyone wanted any further information to contact either himself or Mr Wilcox.

Members were referred to update 8 in the report on Procurement of a new Footfall Counter.

Mr Wilcox confirmed that feedback on the figures generated would be available once the new system is verified and calibrated. The Chair thanked Mr Wilcox the update.

Members were referred to update 9 on Parking Enforcement.

Mr Highway advised that this is an issue that has been raised in other meetings and reassured the group that it was currently being considered by the Council and that Officers would be working alongside colleagues in neighbouring authorities and Gwent Police to explore the various options available. The matter had been placed on the forward work programme for the Regeneration and Environment Scrutiny Committee and would be considered in due course by Cabinet and full Council.

Members discussed current parking issues, the pressures on Gwent Police resources and its impact on illegal parking on the town. It was clarified that Gwent Police would still have obligations under the Road Traffic Act for some parking offences whilst others would be transferred to Civil Parking Enforcement in whichever way the council determined. It was noted that there was a statutory process to be followed which must be approved by Welsh Government.

The group discussed the issues with the Inspector who confirmed that the police will continue to work with the Council when the need arises.

Members of the group raised concerns over the double yellow lines that are not clearly visible, vehicles parking in bays and on pavements.

Mr Dallimore advised that he has met with Dean Smith from Traffic Management who will be looking at the process to deal with these issues.

Councillor Collis advised that a lot of the problems are traders who are parking in the bays and this should be stopped. The group discussed possibly having 30 minutes parking restrictions which will need to be discussed with Traffic Management.

The group were advised by Councillor Morgan that until the five authorities have decided on what will happen with enforcement nothing can be done.

The Chair thanked the Officers for the update.

6. BARGOED TOWN CENTRE AUDIT

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

Steps Hanbury Road. Mr Dallimore advised that he met with Highways on site who confirmed that the works to be carried out include grubbing out weeds, re-painting, cleaning. The product overlay system of vertical cladding over falling steps is being looked at, but it has not as yet been evaluated. Therefore, a short term solution will be the only option for this financial year. No timeframe for works yet but this will be brought back to future meeting.

Faded decorative text on bus station link. No budget exists at present.

Re-setting of bollard Hanbury Square. Mr Dallimore confirmed he is looking to progress this.

Vandalism Bus Station. Mr Highway has raised the issue with Transportation colleagues.

Councillors raised issue over cleanliness of daffodils. Mr Dallimore will look at the issue.

Mr Highway raised the issue of the damage to bin in the Square. Mr Dallimore will visit tomorrow and look at the bin in the bus stop. The supplier will look to see if dent can be resolved.

Mr Dallimore raised the issue of damage Lowy Plaza where stones are missing. The group were advised that an inspection revealed that a number of coping stones had been taken and Mr Dallimore is looking to have them replaced.

There were no further issues raised.

The meeting closed at 17:38pm

CHAIR