

BLACKWOOD TOWN CENTRE AUDIT – NOVEMBER 2018

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>13/2 Insurance negotiations are ongoing. 20/3 An update was provided to the TCMG. 6/6 The insurance settlement is still outstanding. 11/9 The site is now being marketed as a 'clean' site.</p>
11/04/16	<p><u>Antisocial Behaviour 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 Drayton</i></p> <p>Community Safety <i>Paul Wallen</i></p> <p>Licensing <i>Lee Morgan</i></p>	<p>PLEASE SEE PREVIOUS AUDITS FOR A FULL HISTORY OF THIS ISSUE</p> <p>13/2 No Police update was provided, but Community Safety Wardens reported that only the usual instances of ASB has been reported recently. The problem-solving group is due to be reconvened. 6/6 There is a new owner of the café and this has led to a decrease in problems. A new reporting system is also being implemented. 11/9 ASB and damage has decreased since the new Café has opened and the toilets are being kept clean.</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 Drayton</i></p>	<p>PLEASE SEE PREVIOUS AUDITS FOR A FULL HISTORY OF THIS ISSUE</p> <p>13/2 The situation continues to be monitored. 6/6 There have been no reports of car cruisers for some time. 11/9 No recent reports from the public or police.</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>PLEASE SEE PREVIOUS AUDITS FOR A FULL HISTORY OF THIS ISSUE</p> <p>13/2 The current tenants are on a short-term lease while the owner seeks to secure long-term tenants. 6/6 Dialogue continues with the owner and agent to find a new tenant. 11/9 The owner is still seeking a new tenant</p>
21/02/17	<p><u>Litter Bin Fires</u> <u>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 Drayton</i></p> <p>Community Safety <i>Paul Wallen</i></p>	<p>PLEASE SEE PREVIOUS AUDITS FOR A FULL HISTORY OF THIS ISSUE</p> <p>13/2 The area continues to be patrolled, but there have been no reports of incidents for some time. The situation will be monitored. 6/6 The area has been cleaned and is being patrolled and monitored on a regular basis. 11/9 No further reports, patrols to continue. Issue Closed 11/9</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>	<p>PLEASE SEE PREVIOUS AUDITS FOR A FULL HISTORY OF THIS ISSUE</p> <p>13/2 A planning application has been submitted by Pobl Housing Association. There were some issues with drainage on site, which delayed the process. However, work is now due to start in summer 2018. 20/3 An update was provided to the TCMG. 6/6 An application to discharge the conditions attached to the planning application has been received. 11/9 Demolition has began, still outstanding issue with drainage.</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>Ian Jones</i></p>	<p>PLEASE SEE PREVIOUS AUDITS FOR A FULL HISTORY OF THIS ISSUE</p> <p>13/2 The area will be cleaned as part of the Big Spring Clean campaign in early March. 6/6 This has been added to the work programme. 11/9 Benches have been re-sited, area requires cleaning.</p>
26/06/17	<p><u>Artwork Maintenance</u> <u>Town Centre</u> Three pieces of artwork in the town centre have been identified for general maintenance. The “Singing Tree” and “Strata” will be cleaned and a damaged stainless steel leaf on the “Torc Gateway” will be repaired.</p>	<p>Urban Renewal <i>Allan Dallimore</i></p>	<p>PLEASE SEE PREVIOUS AUDITS FOR A FULL HISTORY OF THIS ISSUE</p> <p>13/2 The programme of works continues. 6/6 Some of the artwork has been cleaned, but this is an ongoing long-term programme of work to artwork across the County Borough. 11/9 Some pieces have been vandalised and will be repaired.</p>

17/07/17	<p><u>Condition of Bus Station Toilets</u> <u>Interchange Bus Station</u></p> <p>A complaint has been received from the Town Council in relation to the condition of the toilets on Carnival Day.</p>	<p>Cleansing <i>Ian Jones</i></p>	<p>PLEASE SEE PREVIOUS AUDITS FOR A FULL HISTORY OF THIS ISSUE</p> <p>13/2 Very few incidents of damage have been reported recently. 6/6 There is a new owner of the café and this has led to a decrease in problems. A new reporting system is also being implemented. 11/9 Situation has improved. Issue Closed 11/9</p>
17/10/17	<p><u>Civil Parking Enforcement</u> <u>Town Centre</u></p> <p>Following the decision by Gwent Police to transfer on-street parking enforcement duties to the local authorities across the Gwent area, Council officers are working alongside colleagues in neighbouring authorities and Gwent Police to explore the various options available. Any proposals will be subject to a wider consultation with Members prior to seeking Cabinet confirmation and Council approval.</p>	<p>Transportation <i>Dean Smith</i></p>	<p>PLEASE SEE PREVIOUS AUDITS FOR A FULL HISTORY OF THIS ISSUE</p> <p>20/3 An update was provided to the TCMG. 6/6 The back-office function will be shared with RCT and this has been agreed. The TRO is in progress, but is a significant piece of work. When TRO is complete, an application will be made to WG with a provisional start date of April 2019. 11/9 The Council will take over Civil Parking Enforcement from the Police on the 8th April 2019.</p>
21/11/17	<p><u>Additional Pedestrian Crossing Point</u> <u>High Street</u></p> <p>A request has been received from the Town Council for the installation of an additional pedestrian crossing to be installed near Blackwood Miners' Institute.</p>	<p>Transportation <i>Dean Smith</i></p>	<p>13/2 No update could be provided. 6/6 Following investigations, the preferred option is to add a pedestrian phase to the existing traffic lights at the junction of Pentwyn Road. 11/9 Funding not identified for this project. Issue Closed 11/9</p>

31/01/18	<p><u>Accumulation of Rubbish</u> <u>Lui's Plaice, High Street</u> Due to a lack of bin storage area, the owner of <i>Lui's Plaice</i> is storing rubbish at the rear of the property, which is unacceptable, especially due to the waste being food.</p>	<p>Environmental Health <i>Lyndon Ross</i></p>	<p>13/2 Officers continue to work with the business owner to find a suitable long-term solution to the problem. 6/6 The number of incidents has reduced, but the situation is continuing to be monitored. 11/9 No further reports of issues. Issue Closed 11/9</p>
16/04/18	<p><u>Taxi Rank Highways Issues</u> <u>Bus Station/Gordon Road</u> Cllr. Farina-Childs has received complaints about the number of taxis that are accumulating outside the Taxi Rank on Gordon Road. The taxis are encroaching on the entrances to businesses opposite the bus station and queuing on Gordon Road.</p>	<p>Police <i>Ins Drayton</i></p> <p>Licensing <i>Lee Morgan</i></p>	<p>6/6 Double yellow lines need to be repainted in the area, which will follow forthcoming resurfacing. When the lines are in place, the Police will visit the offending businesses to discuss the issue. Enforcement will then follow. 11/9 Police liaising with Taxi Operators</p>
26/04/18	<p><u>Street Name Plate Installation</u> <u>Gravel Lane</u> Businesses on Gravel Lane have requested a street name plate be installed as customers and delivery drivers have trouble finding the location.</p>	<p>Highways <i>Gavin Barry</i></p>	<p>6/6 The sign has been delivered and is due to be installed within the next two weeks. 11/9 Sign Installed. Issued Closed 11/9</p>
06/06/18	<p><u>Relocation of Noticeboard</u> <u>Bus Station</u> At the TCIG it was reported that the noticeboard within the bus station will be moved as it is currently causing a CCTV blind spot.</p>	<p>Transportation <i>Dean Smith</i></p>	<p>11/9 Works have been instructed.</p>
29/06/18	<p><u>Fly Tipping</u> <u>Gravel Lane</u> Some rubbish and a TV set have been dumped behind the grit bin on Gravel Lane and require disposal.</p>	<p>Cleansing <i>Ian Jones</i></p>	<p>11/9 Rubbish has been cleaned. Issue Closed 11/9</p>

04/07/18	<p><u>Pruning of Tree</u> <u>O/S Blackwood Miners' Institute, High Street</u> The branches of a tree growing near Blackwood Miners' Institute are obscuring the venue's signage, so need trimming back.</p>	<p>Parks <i>Mike Headington</i></p>	11/9 Pruning scheduled.
04/07/18	<p><u>Travelling Circus Posters</u> <u>Town Centre</u> A circus visiting Blackwood Showfield has placed a large number of advertisements throughout the town centre, which require removal.</p>	<p>Parks <i>Mike Headington</i></p> <p>Highways <i>Gavin Barry</i></p>	<p>4/7 Parks will ask the circus to remove all posters. Should this request not be complied with, the bond paid to hire the field will be used to cover the removal/cleansing costs. 11/9 Operator has removed the posters. Issue Closed 11/9</p>
09/07/18	<p><u>Preachers Bar Noise Complaint</u> <u>Hall Street</u> Cllr. Dix has complained that Preachers Bar on Hall Street is leaving the doors open in the hot weather, which is causing noise pollution for local residents.</p>	<p>Licensing <i>Lee Morgan</i></p>	<p>11/9 No further reports. Issue Closed 11/9</p>
13/07/18	<p><u>Reinstallation of Benches</u> <u>Dragon Circle, Cliff Road</u> After the benches were removed following complaints to Cllr Etheridge about their location, it was agreed to re-site the benches elsewhere on The Dragon Circle.</p>	<p>Highways <i>Gavin Barry</i></p>	<p>11/9 Works completed. Issue Closed 11/9</p>
23/07/18	<p><u>Cleansing Issues</u> <u>High Street</u> Cllr. Farina-Childs has received complaints about the condition of the pavement outside <i>The Porters</i> and some of the take away establishments in the High Street. The Cleansing team will look to target resources in order to improve these areas.</p>	<p>Cleansing <i>Ian Jones</i></p>	11/9 Area targeted for a deep clean.

23/07/18	<p><u>Refuse Collection Issues</u> <u>O/S Cancer Research UK, High Street</u> Cllr. Farina-Childs has received complaints about a bin and rubbish sacks of waste being left outside the shop. The large receptacle is provided by a private contractor and not CCBC.</p>	<p>Town Centre Management <i>Andrew Highway</i></p> <p>Cleansing <i>Ian Jones</i></p>	<p>11/9 Following discussions the retailer has relocated the bin to a bin store. Issue Closed 11/9</p>
13/08/18	<p><u>Water Ingress from Pavement</u> <u>Former Store 21 Building High Street</u> The owners of the building have complained that during periods of heavy rain water comes in through the stores main doors as it pools on the pavement outside.</p>	<p>Highways <i>Gavin Barry</i></p>	<p>11/9 The footway inspected there is sufficient room to prevent water ingress. Issue Closed 11/9</p>
19/08/18	<p><u>Litter Bins Blocking Fire Exit</u> <u>Wesley Road / High Street</u> Cllr. Farina-Childs has received complaints from a business that CCBC waste bins, used by another business, are being placed in front of the fire exit of their premises.</p>	<p>Cleansing <i>Ian Jones</i></p> <p>Town Centre Management <i>Andrew Highway</i></p>	<p>11/9 Investigations on site by Cleansing Officers</p>
17/09/18	<p><u>Litter Pick / Weeding</u> <u>Interchange Bus Station</u> Cllr. Dix has received complaints about the condition of the paths leading to the bus station which need weeding and litter picking.</p>	<p>Parks <i>Mike Headington</i></p> <p>Transportation <i>Dean Smith</i></p>	
17/09/18	<p><u>Preachers Bar Glass Complaint</u> <u>Hall Street</u> Cllr. Farina-Childs has received complaints about empty beer glasses from patrons of Preachers Bar being smashed on the steps at Hall Street causing a danger to users.</p>	<p>Licensing <i>Lee Morgan</i></p> <p>Police <i>Ins Drayton</i></p>	

08/09/10	<u>Grit Bin Provision</u> <u>Town Centre</u> Prior to the onset of winter the Highway operations team will visit the town centre and ensure that the grit bins are in place and topped up with a fresh supply of grit.	Highways <i>Gavin Barry</i>	
24/10/18	<u>Artwork Maintenance</u> <u>Town Centre</u> As part of the ongoing maintenance of artwork pieces in the town the 'Tower of Hands' and 'The Lantern' need to be cleaned and have vegetation removed from their bases.	Urban Renewal <i>Allan Dallimore</i>	