



TOWN CENTRE MANAGEMENT GROUP

MINUTES OF THE YSTRAD MYNACH TOWN CENTRE MANAGEMENT GROUP MEETING HELD AT PENALLTA HOUSE, YSTRAD MYNACH

ON TUESDAY 10TH DECEMBER 2018 AT 2:00PM

PRESENT:

Councillors:

A Angel, M James, D Cushing, T Parry, S Morgan

Together with:

J A Pritchard (Community Councillor), C Mortimer (Clerk), Inspector Andrew O'Keefe (Gwent Police), Mr Lewis & Mr I Price (Ystrad Mynach Town Centre Traders & Business Group)

Also:

A Highway (Town Centre Development Manager), A. Dallimore (Team Leader – Urban Renewal), D Smith (Principal Engineer), S Wolf-Williams (Health Challenge Wales Co-ordinator), T Evans (Policy Officer), L James (Senior Planner), A Beaumont (Assistant Engineer), L Raposo (Senior Assistant Engineer), D Lucas (Team Leader Strategic and Development Planning), C Bugler (Engineer), L Gibby (Senior Assistant Engineer) & A. Jones (Clerk)

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

Mr Highway opened the meeting and asked for nominations for Chair. Councillor Parry nominated Councillor Angel. Councillor Cushing seconded the nomination. Councillor Angel was unable to attend the first part of the meeting. In his absence Councillor James confirmed that Councillor Angel had indicated that should he be nominated he would accept the position of Chair.

Mr Highway asked for nominations for Vice-Chair. Councillor Cushing nominated Councillor James, Councillor Parry seconded the nomination. Councillor James was asked to Chair the meeting until Councillor Angel arrived.

Councillor James welcomed Mr Lewis and Mr Price as new members of the group representing the Ystrad Mynach Town Centre Traders and Business Group.

2. TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Community Councillor Osborne

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING 8TH MARCH 2018

Community Councillor Pritchard confirmed that she was present at the previous meeting but was not listed. Mr Highway apologised for the omission and asked that this meeting's minute record that Community Councillor Pritchard was at the meeting on 8th March 2018.

The minutes were taken as read

5. UPDATE ON MATTERS RELATING TO TOWN

Mr Highway introduced the report which provided an update on matters relating to Ystrad Mynach town centre and sought the Chair's permission to change the order of the reports due to officers having to leave the meeting early.

The first item to be presented was Local Toilet Strategy. A paper copy of a PowerPoint Presentation by the officer was provided to members as part of the minutes pack.

Ms S Wolf-Williams introduced herself to the group and presented her report. The group were advised that the Council has a statutory duty under the Public Health (Wales) Act 2017 to prepare and publish a local toilet strategy.

The group discussed the report in detail and expressed their concerns over the proposed closure of the toilets in Ystrad Mynach town centre under the medium term financial plan. The group were advised by Ms S Wolf-Williams that all Council owned buildings would be making their toilets accessible to the public and were told that a draft strategy report would be going out for consultation shortly (ending 8th of March 2019).

Ms Wolf-Williams urged members of the group to view the draft strategy report and to provide comments and feedback.

The Chair thanked Ms Wolf-Williams.

The second item to be presented was Electric Vehicle Charging. A paper copy of a PowerPoint Presentation by the officer was provided to members as part of the minutes pack.

Ms Evans introduced herself to the group and presented her report.

The group discussed the introduction of Electric Vehicle Charging points within the car parks in Ystrad Mynach. Ms Evans was advised that one of the sites identified in the report for Ystrad Mynach is not Council owned. Ms Evans thanked the group and confirmed that she would update her records.

Mr Dallimore pointed out to that the PowerPoint contained a reference to funding and advised that the Council can submit a bid for regional funding from Welsh Government.

The Chair thanked Ms Evans for her update.

The third item to be presented was Civil Parking. A paper copy of a PowerPoint Presentation by the officer was provided to members as part of the minutes pack.

Mr Smith introduced himself to the group and presented a detailed report on Civil Parking.

The group were advised that the Council will be taking over parking enforcement from Gwent Police on the 8th April 2019.

Councillor Parry asked how far along the Council were in reinstating the double yellow lines and would this only be undertaken in the town centres?

Mr Smith confirmed that all lines and signs will need to be checked across the whole of the Borough and where necessary repainted. To date the Council is approximately 60% through completing this work.

Councillor James raised concern over the residents parking and insufficient parking spaces within the town. He asked where people can park if they can't get a space in their street and could the resident's permits be lifted?

Mr Smith advised that the resident's parking is on a 'first come' basis and he could not advise motorists/residents where to park. The group were told that none of the restrictions will be changed, but in the future there may be an opportunity to review the Traffic Regulation Orders after the Council begins enforcement action.

The group raised questions about who would enforce parking and how often it would be within the town context?

Mr Smith confirmed that enforcement will be primarily focused on the town centres, schools and then other areas. The group were informed that there will be 10 Civil Parking Enforcement Officers who will cover the whole of the Borough on a rota which has not been developed yet. Therefore, there is no guarantee that an officer will be in a particular area on a daily basis as the whole Borough needs to be covered.

Councillor Morgan reiterated what Mr Smith had advised and assured the group that the officers will enforce parking in the town centres and across the County Borough.

The group discussed dangerous parking within the town centre and clarified what the Council will be able to enforce and what the Police will still need to enforce.

Inspector O'Keefe advised that at present enforcement is difficult, particularly where lines are not complete, once the signage has been checked and upgraded where necessary enforcement will prove to be much easier for officers. The Inspector advised the group to report any offences that the police will still have responsibility for directly to the police.

The Chair thanked Mr Smith for his report.

The fourth item to be presented was Culvert Works. A paper copy of a PowerPoint Presentation by the officer was provided to members as part of the minutes pack.

Mr Raposo & Mr Bugler introduced themselves and presented their report on the Commercial Street Culvert works.

The group were advised that it has been confirmed that the culvert needs to be replaced rather than repaired, which means that the road will have to be closed for approximately 10 weeks to enable the works to be carried out. Mr Raposo brought with him a 3D computer model which he was happy to show the group after the meeting.

The group discussed the works and expressed their concerns and dissatisfaction on the length of time that the road would need to be closed, particularly at that time of year.

Mr Lewis informed the group that businesses are already suffering with job losses and this would have a devastating impact on local businesses. The group requested that the works be undertaken during the school holidays as there would be fewer people around, especially school children, and that the weather and daylight conditions could speed up the works.

Officers explained to the group that the work would be over a period of approximately 10 weeks and that this would not change if the works were to be carried out at a different time in the year.

Councillor Morgan stated that he appreciated the position of businesses and requested clarity on the dates of the work: If there are any restrictions on funding? Whether night work and weekend work have been considered? What plans will be put in place to minimise disruption for access?

Mr Bugler confirmed that the works were due to start in Mid-January but will need to be pushed back to Mid-February. Funding is being provided from Welsh Government and this will expire by the end of March and with the work programmed for Mid-February it means that 85% of the funds will be used from Welsh Government.

The group were advised that there will be a relaxation on the one way system up until the removal of the culvert and there will be a shuttle service to allow smaller vehicles to deliver goods under supervision of the contractors.

Weekend work has been considered but officers will need to find out more details. Footpaths will be maintained but vehicular access will not be available.

Councillor James requested confirmation as to whether a risk assessment had been carried out due to the volume of traffic that will be diverted via Lewis Street. Mr Bugler confirmed he would need to check.

Councillor James asked if Welsh Government have been asked to extend the funding? Mr Bugler advised that Michelle Johnson has been in contact with Welsh Government and they have advised that the funding cannot be extended. Councillor James requested a copy of the reply from Welsh Government. Mr Bugler confirmed he would speak with Michelle Johnson. Councillor James stated that he would speak with Welsh Government directly.

The Chair asked for confirmation on the total costs. Mr Raposo advised that this would be down to the tender and the timescale in case it goes over 10 weeks, but the figures can be provided. The group were advised that the tender process will be completed in January.

Councillor James delivered a petition to the Cabinet Member Councillor Morgan with over 100 signatures. Councillor Morgan responded that he would consult with engineering colleagues regarding the works. The group were advised that the footfall data had been checked and confirmed that there was not a huge difference in the figures for February compared to August onwards.

In view of the groups dissatisfaction with the works timing Mr Highway advised the Chair Councillor Angel that he may wish to consider a motion from the Town Centre Management Group asking for the time of the contract works to be reconsidered. The Cabinet member Cllr Morgan would then discuss this with officers.

The following motion was proposed by the Chair.

The Ystrad Mynach Town Centre Management Group wishes to ask the Council to consider the time of the culvert works be moved to a date later in the year.

The group voted in total 7 in favour 0 against.

The Cabinet member confirmed he would take this matter up the Engineering Department.

Mr Highway advised the group that the meeting would have to end at 4pm due to another meeting requiring the room and requested that the group briefly hear the fifth item.

The fifth item to be presented was Cycle Racks

Ms Anouska Beaumont summarised her presentation by advising that the Council are looking to introduce cycle racks in the towns around the Borough and that the Ystrad Mynach Masterplan has already been sent to County Councillors, the item will be going to Scrutiny Committee in January.

The group were advised there will be a public consultation of the Masterplan for 6 weeks from the 28th January to the 8th March

Lisa James confirmed that local schools had been involved and work had been done with the Environmental Health department who are undertaking air pollution studies

Liz Gibby explained that the idea is to support the installation of the cycle racks and the group were briefed on this. Mr Highway asked if the Chair could request a vote on installation of the cycle racks.

The group voted in total 7 in favour 0 against.

The group were advised that a copy of the report would be emailed to them by the clerk following the meeting.

Mr Highway briefly introduced his presentation on High Street Heroes and congratulated D Emlyn Lloyd on being awarded High Street Hero Status, as well as a number of other businesses in Ystrad Mynach town centre.

6. YSTRAD MYNACH TOWN CENTRE AUDIT

Due to the meeting over running this item was not discussed.

There were no further issues raised

The meeting closed at 16:10

CHAIR