



## **YSTRAD MYNACH TOWN CENTRE MANAGEMENT GROUP – 12TH APRIL 2019**

**SUBJECT: UPDATE ON MATTERS RELATING TO YSTRAD MYNACH TOWN**

**REPORT BY: TOWN CENTRE DEVELOPMENT MANAGER**

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### **1. PUBLIC CONVENIENCES**

In October 2018, Welsh Government announced its provisional budget settlement; under the settlement Caerphilly County Borough Councils faced a funding reduction of 0.3%, this coupled with inescapable pressures that the Council has to fund, meant that the Council needed to find savings of over £15.6 million for the next year alone.

As part of the draft budget proposals for 2019/20, the closure of all 5 Public Conveniences was presented as a saving proposal (£74,000).

The draft budget which included this saving underwent a comprehensive consultation process held over a period of six weeks from the 19<sup>th</sup> November 2018 to the 11<sup>th</sup> January 2019, with the views expressed to be fed back to and considered by elected members at a Special meeting of full Council in February 2019.

The consultation included officer representation at the Community Council Liaison Committee (21<sup>st</sup> November 2018), Newline, Council's website, Special Scrutiny Committee meetings, Town Centre Engagement and Public Drop in Centres. Drop in sessions were held in 9 venues across the county borough between the 26<sup>th</sup> November and 13<sup>th</sup> December 2018 (Rhymney Library, Bargoed Library, Caerphilly Library, New Tredegar White Rose Centre, Risca Palace, Newbridge Tabernacle, Nelson Library and Blackwood Library).

Town and Community Councils also received this information via their Community Council Liaison Officer – Caerphilly Conversation engagement email (22<sup>nd</sup> November 2018) and a copy of the final budget proposals circulated to all clerks on the 18<sup>th</sup> February 2019.

At the meeting of Special Council on the 21<sup>st</sup> February 2019, elected members approved the final budget proposals including the closure of the 5 public conveniences (recommendation 10.1.2 – Appendix 2 – page 16). Following the decision of Council, notices were placed in each of the public conveniences and the closure will come into effect on the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2019.

### **2. CIVIL PARKING ENFORCEMENT**

- Traffic Regulation Order remedial works have been substantially completed.
- The Traffic Regulation Order consolidation order has been advertised and will be concluded by the 8<sup>th</sup> April.

- A Service Level Agreement has been signed with Rhondda Cynnon Taf County Borough Council to provide back office support for the civil parking enforcement process within Caerphilly County Borough Council.
  - All Civil Enforcement Officers have been recruited and trained. During March the officers have been undertaking an extensive exercise across the county borough to issue warning notices to drivers advising them of parking restrictions.
- Traffic Regulation Order remedial works have been completed.
  - The Traffic Regulation Order consolidation order has been made.
  - A Service Level Agreement has been signed with Rhondda Cynnon Taf County Borough Council to provide back office support for the civil parking enforcement process within Caerphilly County Borough Council.
  - All Civil Enforcement Officers have been recruited and trained. During March the officers have been undertaking an extensive exercise across the county borough to issue warning notices to drivers advising them of parking restrictions, alongside other media releases.

### 3. **CULVERT WORKS - TO BE PROVIDED AT THE MEETING**

### 4. **PLASTIC FREE TOWNS**

There is a growing global movement to reduce the amount of plastics which are used, with a particular focus on preventing millions of plastic bottles from entering our rivers and seas. In response, many UK towns are taking positive steps to cut the amount of plastics which businesses use and actively supporting the water bottle Refill Scheme. Town Centre Management is engaging with local retailers to encourage them to participate in the Refill Scheme. Participating businesses agree to refill a reusable water bottle for free and are given a blue Refill sticker to put in their window and included on the Refill App so people can find them. To support this and other elements of Plastics Free Towns a special version of the successful 'Choose the High Street' logo has been designed.

### 5. **YSTRAD MYNACH OVERVIEW 2018**

The focus of Ystrad Mynach town centre continues to shift towards core service provision which was reflected in the new businesses which opened during 2018. These included: *Outpost Barbers* and *Beauty In Hand*. In spite of a very tough trading environment Ystrad Mynach still attracted a new gift business *The Cutesy Co* and a new A3 business *Cwm Bakery*. The town remains popular with new business start ups and as a consequence has very few vacant properties on the market in the core of the town street. A key unit which remains vacant is the former *Nat West* bank in Bedwlwyn Road. The primary concern going into 2019 remains the retention of *Barclays* and *Lloyds* as the town's remaining banks both of which draw visitors to the town centres.

### **UK Retail Overview 2018**

The fabric of the UK's high streets fundamentally changed in 2018. Well established household names such as *Toys r Us*, *Maplin*, *Poundworld*, *The Original Factor Shop* and even *House of Fraser* have either disappeared or fallen into administration. This has left gaps in many prime town and city centre locations and seen nervous retailers dramatically reducing the number of stores within their property portfolio. Smaller town centres have been particularly hard hit with the likes of *Dorothy Perkins*, *New Look* and *Carpetright* all closing

stores in prominent town centre locations. There is no single reason for the current downturn on the high street, rather it is a case of a number of different factors combining together. These include a squeeze on household budgets, the continued shift to experiential and online shopping, rising household overheads and an over capacity in many retail sectors. During 2018 more high street banks were lost and this is expected to continue in 2019 with banks realigning their service into a district centre model which locally means directing customers to Blackwood and Caerphilly.

<b>Ystrad Mynach Business Comparison</b>			
	2018	2017	LFL Comparison
Businesses Opened	<b>5</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3 more businesses opened</b>
Businesses Closed	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2 more businesses closed</b>

### Footfall Figures

#### YSTRAD MYNACH

Q1	Commencing	Week Total	Year Total
Week 01	Mon 1-Jan-2018	10,568	10,568
Week 02	Mon 8-Jan-2018	14,372	24,940
Week 03	Mon 15-Jan-2018	13,895	38,835
Week 04	Mon 22-Jan-2018	13,435	52,270
Week 05	Mon 29-Jan-2018	13,693	65,963
Week 06	Mon 5-Feb-2018	13,228	79,191
Week 07	Mon 12-Feb-2018	13,142	92,333
Week 08	Mon 19-Feb-2018	12,261	104,594
Week 09	Mon 26-Feb-2018	11,102	115,696
Week 10	Mon 5-Mar-2018	15,220	130,916
Week 11	Mon 12-Mar-2018	15,208	146,124
Week 12	Mon 19-Mar-2018	14,441	160,565
Week 13	Mon 26-Mar-2018	13,223	173,788

Q2	Commencing	Week Total	Year Total
Week 14	Mon 2-Apr-2018	13,101	186,889
Week 15	Mon 9-Apr-2018	14,020	200,909
Week 16	Mon 16-Apr-2018	16,373	217,282
Week 17	Mon 23-Apr-2018	14,183	231,465
Week 18	Mon 30-Apr-2018	16,346	247,811
Week 19	Mon 7-May-2018	14,465	262,276
Week 20	Mon 14-May-2018	15,454	277,730
Week 21	Mon 21-May-2018	15,250	292,980
Week 22	Mon 28-May-2018	11,952	304,932
Week 23	Mon 4-Jun-2018	15,730	320,662
Week 24	Mon 11-Jun-2018	14,804	335,466
Week 25	Mon 18-Jun-2018	14,148	349,614
Week 26	Mon 25-Jun-2018	15,190	364,804

Q3	Commencing	Week Total	Year Total
Week 27	Mon 2-Jul-2018	14,499	379,303
Week 28	Mon 9-Jul-2018	15,193	394,496

Q4	Commencing	Week Total	Year Total
Week 40	Mon 1-Oct-2018	14,411	548,278
Week 41	Mon 8-Oct-2018	13,470	561,748

Week 29	Mon 16-Jul-2018	13,236	407,732
Week 30	Mon 23-Jul-2018	11,817	419,549
Week 31	Mon 30-Jul-2018	13,025	432,574
Week 32	Mon 6-Aug-2018	11,257	443,831
Week 33	Mon 13-Aug-2018	11,174	455,005
Week 34	Mon 20-Aug-2018	11,734	466,739
Week 35	Mon 27-Aug-2018	11,883	478,622
Week 36	Mon 3-Sep-2018	13,675	492,297
Week 37	Mon 10-Sep-2018	13,988	506,285
Week 38	Mon 17-Sep-2018	13,067	519,352
Week 39	Mon 24-Sep-2018	14,515	533,867

Week 42	Mon 8-Oct-2018	14,566	576,314
Week 43	Mon 21-Oct-2019	13,887	590,201
Week 44	Mon 28-Oct-2019	11,014	601,215
Week 45	Mon 4-Nov-2019	12,931	614,146
Week 46	Mon 11-Nov-2019	18,505	632,651
Week 47	Mon 18-Nov-2019	13,606	646,257
Week 48	Mon 25-Nov-2019	12,573	658,830
Week 49	Mon 2-Dec-2019	13,302	672,132
Week 50	Mon 9-Dec-2019	14,311	686,443
Week 51	Mon 16-Dec-2019	14,813	701,256
Week 52	Mon 23-Dec-2019	7,927	709,183

## 2019

<b>Q1</b>	<b>Commencing</b>	<b>Week Total</b>	<b>Year Total</b>
Week 01	Mon 31-Dec-2018	9,665	9,665
Week 02	Mon 7-Jan-2019	13,799	23,464
Week 03	Mon 14-Jan-2019	12,817	36,281

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