



BARGOED TOWN CENTRE MANAGEMENT GROUP

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT THE COUNCIL OFFICES, PENALLTA HOUSE ON WEDNESDAY, 21ST MAY 2014 AT 4.00 P.M.

PRESENT:

Councillors:

H. A. Andrews, D. T. Davies, A. Higgs, K. James, D. Price, K. Reynolds

Together with:

H. Llewellyn (Town Councillor), D. Morgan (Town Councillor), A. Collis (Town Councillor)

Also:

Inspector James Hill (Gwent Police), A. Dallimore (Team Leader – Urban Renewal & Conservation), A. Highway (Town Centre Development Manager), S. Wilkes (Assistant Town Centre Manager), D. Smith (Principal Engineer), A. Jones (Clerk)

1. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN

Mr. Highway opened the meeting and asked for nominations for Chairman. Councillor Davies was nominated and seconded and all agreed, Councillor Davies accepted the position and continued with the meeting.

2. APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIRMAN

Councillor Davies requested nominations for Vice Chairman. Councillor Price was nominated and seconded and all agreed. Councillor Price accepted the position.

3. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillors: E.M. Aldworth, D. Carter, Insp Greening (Gwent Police), Jan Bennett

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

5. TO NOTE THE PREVIOUS MINUTES OF 29TH JANUARY 2014

The previous minutes were taken as read.

6. 'A' FRAMES PROTOCOL

Mr Barry informed the group that the policy presented is now in place. If there are any contentious issues raised the protocol can be revised and any feedback will be considered.

7. CINEMA UPDATE

Mr. Dallimore advised the group that the Council is looking to work with Odeon on two areas. The first is looking at a procurement process with regards to fit out and more competitive market.

Secondly to, secure external funding. The Council are in positive discussions with the Welsh Government, an application is to be submitted to go to the minister.

Mr. Dallimore confirmed that meetings with Odeon and the council's Chief Executive recently have confirmed that Odeon are very committed to the scheme.

There is a revised programme whereby works are likely to start in January 2015, with an anticipated open date of late March/Easter 2016.

Members were pleased that Welsh Government are looking to assist with funding but expressed their concerns over the delay and feel that a public statement should be sent out reiterating that Odeon are still committed to the project.

Mr. Dallimore is going to look into the wording for a statement to be released.

8. HJJJ BUILDING UPDATE

Mr. Dallimore confirmed that the monies have been secured for the demolition of the building. The legal process is still ongoing and there are a number of conditions such as a claw back for future sale of site that need to be sorted prior to us taking ownership. These conditions have been agreed in principle and are currently with the WG and our Legal team.

The project is due to start mid summer with an end date of just before Christmas. Completion of this work will then enable the cinema build to commence.

Councillor Davies asked for confirmation of the deadline for all works to be completed with regards to the regeneration.

Mr. Dallimore confirmed that all works would need to be completed by March however there is a possible extension time of a further 3 months. Confirmation of the deadline date will be provided closer to the time.

Councillor Davies asked if traffic would be affected. Mr. Dallimore confirmed that traffic will be affected but it will be kept to as minimum disruption as possible.

9. FORMER WOOLWORTHS BUILDING UPDATE

Mr Dallimore read out the following statement provided from Mr Gwyn Williams in the Council's IT Department.

“Open Reach have now resolved one of their issues and therefore the first part of the circuit installation can proceed; we have been informed by our suppliers that the duct in the High Street will be laid and paving slabs re-laid by 31st May. Following this, another Open Reach team will then put the fibre-optic cable through the duct into the building, which will be followed by another team who will install the Open Reach equipment on the fibre-optic cable. I have contacted our suppliers this morning but Open Reach have not put any dates on the activities beyond the 31st May. As you can see this is a onerous task with matters beyond our control, however, we continue to work with our supplier to bring this matter to a conclusion as quickly as possible.”

Mr. Dallimore advised the group that no definite date is known at present.

10. CHOOSE THE HIGH STREET

Mr. Highway presented his report, which informed the group that since the Christmas campaign feedback was brought to the group. Town Centre Management, have been working on a number of platforms to raise consumer choice throughout the towns.

The aim of the campaign is to increase importance of supporting local retailers by promoting their businesses and raise awareness of consumer choice. Support the High Street, increase footfall and encourage new businesses.

As part of the advertising, 5,000 bags have been ordered and will be distributed from Customer First centres and libraries in each of the five towns; all members were given a bag. Information will be going out to all businesses and local banks have been contacted and provided with leaflets to provide to potential new businesses.

Advertising will continue in a number of ways such as banners, billboards, twitter, facebook and youtube.

Councillor Davies thanked Mr Highway for his report and hard work and hopes that this will boost trade in the town but has some concern with regards the Northern end of the town, as there are a number of vacant properties.

Inspector James Hill introduced himself to the group as the new inspector for Bargoed. Inspector Hill queried as to how other towns are managed as the police service has 7 stations in different towns.

Mr. Highway advised that it was a Council decision only to manage 5 at present there are no other towns managed by the Town Centre Management team.

Councillor Davies welcomed Inspector Hill to the group.

11. POCKET PARK NEW VISUALS

Mr. Dallimore provided the group with visual displays along with a plan for the draft designs for parking.

The consultation exhibition had a massive response. It was felt that the design took up too many parking spaces in the Northern trench. Capita Simmons redesigned the plan and came up with three options.

The Town Council overwhelming voted for the design passed around. This design provides a 3D visual centre, which will focus around the daffodils artwork this gives focal point from all areas of the small events space and adds area for people to eat outdoors. Councillor Price asked for the current position on the daffodils artwork. Mr. Dallimore advised that they have

not been fabricated yet.

Mr. Dallimore advised that the floor would be in natural stone (flagstone), which is the same as the flooring in Hanbury Square. Replacement trees will be put in to have good chance of growing. The non-slip surface lay down in Chisholm's Lane is not really working so will need to be replaced.

Councillor Llewellyn raised concerns over the tight angle of the turn; members agreed that this would need to be looked at. Mr. Highway advised that this can be placed on the audit and brought to the next meeting.

Councillor Collis raised concern over the safety of children climbing the daffodil sculptures. Mr. Dallimore advised that the girth of the structure would be too wide for anyone to climb. Seating was a concern previously and this has been changed to comply with Health and Safety.

12. REPORT ON ACTION TAKEN BY COUNCIL TO LIASE WITH NETWORK RAIL

Councillor Davies informed the group that he raised this as a query. As no officer was available to provide update it is requested that Huw Thomas and Clive Campbell provide an update on this matter. It was suggested that a site meeting maybe required.

13. TRAFFIC REGULATIONS MEMBER'S REQUEST CLARIFICATION ON TWO ISSUES

Mr. Smith presented the group with the report and plan. The report is designed to reduce the levels of obstructions and reduce incidents. A number of options were considered but only one option has been preferred as a temporary order for 18 months.

The advice is preferable to make Cardiff Road one way in a northerly direction from its junction with Ruth Street and this would not affect bus routes.

Councillor Davies advised that a site visit with Phil Anstis proved that double yellow lines have been tried but did not make any difference, mainly due to lack of enforcement. Also traffic travelling through Gilfach Street is too fast.

Councillor Davies agreed that the preferred option would be the best to try as an experimental order for up to 18 months.

Mr. Smith highlighted that this would increase traffic on Gilfach Street. With regards to the parking issue in Wood Street double yellow lines could be introduced to prevent the parking on both sides.

Mr. Dallimore confirmed that this would be placed on the audit.

Councillor Davies thanked Mr. Smith for his report.

14. BARGOED TOWN CENTRE AUDIT REPORT

Councillor Price requested confirmation on whether the fire routes from the Morrisons store were adequate as there have been complaints at how low the bar to the car park is and concern as to whether a fire engine would be able to get in.

Mr. Dallimore advised that he will ask for clarity but he has been advised that there is a planned fire route into the building and the height on the basement level is normal, it is mainly an issue with signs hanging down that restrict the access.

Mr. Dallimore confirmed that he is still trying to obtain money to tidy up the steps on Hanbury Road. Other problems on Hanbury Road have been identified such as the stone slabs that have come up and not replaced but tarmac put down. There is an ongoing dispute with Alun Griffiths and Capita Simmons to establish responsibility. Until the dispute is resolved damage can only be patched.

Another area of concern is the dip outside Barclays Bank which has been identified as snagging and Mr. Dallimore will look into this and keep members updated.

Railway fencing. Councillor Price to chase AM for update.

Illegal parking in town centre. Mr. Dallimore advised that double yellow lines will go down soon and also bollards to be put in as part of the Public Realm Phase 4 Works sometime in February.

Councillor Davies requested that more urgency be placed on this matter. Mr. Dallimore is to liaise with engineers.

Unit Shops, Lowry Plaza. Mr Dallimore confirmed that Gregg's are trading, Subway is going in and there is a national retailer interested in Units 1 & 2. The opening of the cinema is the main link to national retailers and he is awaiting new marketing materials to promote shops more widely. This will be brought to the Council next meeting.

Mr. Dallimore will arrange a site visit with Simons reference the next Town Council notice board.

Inspector Hill informed the group that the police have increased the patrols in the town in relation to the groups of youths hanging around Morrisons car park. It has been agreed that these resources are to remain to keep the police presence there.

Councillors requested clarification as to responsibility of the security of the car park and were advised that it is down to Morrisons to provide security.

Angel Artwork spotlights. Councillor Higgs raised this as an ongoing matter, which has not been resolved and advised that Alun Griffiths had informed him that this matter had been resolved so he will take it back to them.

The meeting closed at 5:35 p.m.

CHAIRMAN