



YSTRAD MYNACH TOWN CENTRE MANAGEMENT GROUP

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT PENALLTA HOUSE ON TUESDAY 7TH APRIL 2015 AT 2:00PM

PRESENT:

Councillors:

A. Angel, K. James, M. James, J. A. Pritchard, D. T. Davies

Together with:

Inspector Muirhead (Gwent Police), Mr W Jeff (Tredomen Allotments Association), Dr M Jorro (Rhymney Valley Music Club), Mr K Jones (Ystrad Mynach Partnership)

Also:

Mr S Wilcox (Assistant Town Centre Manager), P. Hudson (Marketing and Events Manager), A. Jones (Clerk)

1. TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillors: Mr A. Highway (Town Centre Manager), Mr A Dallimore (Team Leader – Urban Renewal & Conservation)

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

3. TO NOTE THE PREVIOUS MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 25TH NOVEMBER 2014

Councillor Pritchard requested that the matter of the paving area in Siloh Square be looked at, as the area is very slippery. Removing the artwork has helped, but the yellow pavements across the area also become slippery. Mr Wilcox confirmed that he would refer the concerns to Mr Dallimore.

The previous minutes were taken as read.

4. UPDATE OF PARKING

Inspector Muirhead advised the group that officers have been enforcing parking restrictions by issuing tickets, which followed a period of driver education. The group were advised that improvements should be seen now that active enforcement is taking place.

The Chair stated that there is concern where there are traffic calming measures on Commercial Street, towards The Royal Oak at the lower end of the town. Drivers are not able to see clearly due to vehicles parking and obstructing views.

Councillor M James asked if it could be considered that the traffic calming be removed. This was discussed but no outcome reached as Ins Muirhead advised that this would need a revision of the area's Traffic Regulation Order and the cost of removal is likely to be prohibitive in light of local authority budget constraints.

Councillor M James felt that if the car park at Oakfield Street was free, it would reduce illegal parking within the town. Councillor M James asked Mr Wilcox how many free and pay & display spaces are available in other town centres. Mr Wilcox agreed ask Transportation colleagues to report back to a future meeting.

Mr K Jones advised that the main problem is outside the banks and the Non-Political Club where drivers park their vehicles and cause obstruction, particularly when buses or larger vehicles need to pass but are unable to, this then results in Bedwlwyn Road being gridlocked.

Councillor M James stated that this goes back to the bus stop being located where it is and we should be speaking to the bus companies to move the bus stop back around the corner. Mr Wilcox asked if the group wished to refer the matter back to the Transportation Department. The group stated that they would like a report presented to the next meeting.

5. CHOOSE THE HIGH STREET @ CHRISTMAS – ANALYSIS REPORT

Mr Wilcox presented the report to the group and discussed how the voucher scheme was a success for both retailers and the public.

The group were advised that throughout the five towns 90 offers were made and hopefully this will increase in future. Looking through the survey carried out, 91% of retailers stated that they would consider taking part in a future scheme.

From the feedback provided by the public, it is apparent that the key to a retailer's voucher being used was in the strength of the offer. Members were advised of comments listed in the appendix of the report.

6. CHOOSE THE HIGH STREET PAST & PRESENT

Mr Wilcox presented the report to the group and advised that this new initiative aims to re-connect people with their local town centre.

This new scheme was discussed with the group and members were asked if they had any old photographs, which could be used in a library exhibition.

The initiative will include an exhibition of archive photos held at the library in each town centre, as part of this there will be a competition where people will have the opportunity to win £50 of "Love 2 Shopping" vouchers. On the entry form people will be asked to complete the sentence – "I choose the high street because..." It is hoped to use some of these sentences in the future to further promote the town centres.

7. YSTRAD MYNACH CHRISTMAS MARKET 2015

Mr Hudson informed the group that the event has been running since 2006 and has been very successful.

The group were advised that due to the cut in budgets there is a reduced amount available for events throughout the five towns. Mr Hudson advised that there is a need to seek funding from other avenues.

Mr Hudson stated that he would not be in a position to confirm how much is available to contribute to the event until September.

Members expressed their concern of the time they would have to wait and that there would not be sufficient time to organise the event if additional funding could be found.

Members also expressed their concern over the fact that Ystrad Mynach has not received their share of the events budget compared to other towns.

Councillor K James advised that Ystrad Mynach became a managed town after budgets slumped, which is unfortunate. However, it was confirmed that Town Councils contribute towards the events in the other towns.

Councillor D T Davies informed the group that Bargoed Town Council contributes to all of its events.

The Chair advised that the Ystrad Mynach Partnership is coming to an end as numbers have dropped and not enough help is available to support the events.

Members requested that the next meeting be organised as quickly as possible to enable Mr Hudson to present a report on the budget position and how much can be contributed to the event.

Mr Hudson advised that he has already contacted a variety of stallholders to gauge interest and is waiting for them to confirm.

8. UPDATE FROM COUNCILLOR ANGEL ON SILOH CHAPEL COMMUNITY GARDEN

The Chair advised the group that the chapel is looking to install a prayer wall in different languages. This was discussed as a group and members raised concern over the possibility of the area being vandalised.

A request for funding has been referred to Ms Mortimer (Clerk).

The Chapel is also looking to landscape the entrance to the hall and install benches in the garden.

9. YSTRAD MYNACH AUDIT – FEBRUARY 2015

Mr Wilcox presented the audit report to the group and the following item was raised.

The group were advised that the banners for the eisteddfod would be in place within the next few weeks

There were no further issues on the audit.

Meeting closed at 16:08pm

CHAIR