

**TOWN CENTRE MANAGEMENT TEAM –**

**BARGOED TOWN CENTRE**

**BRIEFING NOTE: UPDATE ON BARGOED TOWN CENTRE AUDIT**

**DATE: APRIL 2025**

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**1. BRIEFING NOTE SUMMARY**

1.1 The purpose of this briefing note is to update Elected Members and Town/Community Councillors on progress made against the Bargoed Town Centre Audit as of April 2025.

1.2 This briefing note contains details of recently completed actions and the work being progressed against the remaining action points.

**2. TOWN CENTRE AUDIT**

**2.1 Town Centre Bollards**

New Manchester bollards were installed along Hanbury Road and High Street in February 2025. Some assets have been revisited to address minor cosmetic defects. Two new bollards experienced vehicle damage following installation, and arrangements are being made to replace these units.

Although the bollard installation scheme met with some negative responses from businesses, this vehicle mitigation has already proven effective in preventing loss of life during a road traffic collision on the High Street.

**2.2 Vehicle damage - Royal Square**

A road traffic collision occurred on the High Street on 17th April 2025, which resulted in damage to a bollard and tree on Royal Square. The tree was assessed and removed due to the extent of the damage, and arrangements are being made to replace the bollard.

**2.3 Parklet – Hanbury Road**

In response to stakeholder requests, the disused parklet outside the former Belinda’s Plaice premises has been removed from the parking bay, creating additional parking spaces for town centre users.

**2.4 Seating area – Bargoed Gateway Steps**

Parks have retrieved the damaged bench from the banking and will complete the repair in due course and refix the unit to the surface.

**2.5 Granite blocks - across town**

All granite blocks have now been relocated to their correct positions to act as vehicle mitigation to deter problem parking.

**2.6 Planting area around Miners’ Heads - Hanbury Square**

Overgrowth and soil have been removed from the planting beds and the area infilled with green resin. This scheme was delivered as a SPF enhancement project to improve the appearance of the area.

**2.7 Tree pits - Royal Square and Lower High Street**

These locations were recently remediated and infilled with concrete to improve the surface of the pavement and accessibility for town centre users. Artwork had been planned for the two sites; however, upon commencing work at Royal Square, the artist experienced difficulties with his painting products used, as these would not adhere to the surface and were flaking away when applied.

Due to the short timescales remaining to complete the works before the end of the SPF programme, combined with the probability that repeated painting efforts might not succeed, it was decided not to progress with this project. The artist restored the area to its original condition and no cost was incurred by CCBC for the painting works.

**2.8 Hanbury Road Steps**

This area has been identified as in need of improvement due to the dilapidated condition of the steps which have resulted in constant complaints and concerns from stakeholders. A feasibility report and production of proposed plans will be delivered through SPF in 2025-26, with a view to making the area a more desirable gateway to Bargoed Town Centre, as and when funding becomes available.

**2.9 Cleansing – Royal Square**

Parks are due to cleanse the paving along Royal Square to remove the build-up of algae.

Consultees: Jo Hillier-Raikes – Principal Officer Town Centres and Business Support

 Gavin Barry - Highway Operations Manager

 Victoria Conlon – Assistant Engineer

 Jonathan Davies - Parks and Countryside Operations Manager

 David Haines, Senior Assistant Engineer

Paul Hudson - Business Enterprise Renewal Team Leader

Nathan J Jones – Waste Operations Manager

Ian Jones - Technical Assistant/Relief Supervisor

David Price - Assistant Engineer

Lorna Reed – Principal Regeneration Project Officer

Ian Shephard - Assistant Engineer

Dean Smith - Principal Engineer, Traffic Management

Joe Williams – Acting Highway Engineering Group Manager