

**TOWN CENTRE MANAGEMENT TEAM –**

**BARGOED TOWN CENTRE**

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

**DATE: JULY 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 July 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 Weeding/cutting back – across town**

The Parks Team recently carried out scheduled weed-spraying activities across town. The Town Centre Team have also asked Parks to address the following areas under the new Cleaning and Greening enhancement programme:

* Bus station steps
* Cross Street steps
* Hanbury Road steps/ramps
* Lowry Plaza steps
* Miners’ Heads area
* Bargoed Gateway steps and seating area
* Hanbury Road Car Park
* Area next to North Lane outside Morrisons service yard
* Bargoed Gateway approach road

**2.2 Seating area – Bargoed Gateway Steps**

Following further vandalism to one picnic table, Parks temporarily removed the whole unit to re-attach both benches to the table. The unit has now been reinstated, and the area will continue to be monitored for damage.

**2.3 Miners’ Heads – Resin beds**

The resin beds have been sealed which should eliminate most weed growth; however, an element of maintenance will still be required around the edges of the beds and in any gaps or spaces where weeds could germinate. Parks have recently weed-sprayed the area and will include in their programme of works across town.

**2.4 Lowry Plaza to Morrisons steps - cleansing**

These steps were recently jet washed to improve traction and reduce the risk of slips and trips.

**2.5 Paving – Hanbury Road**

A number of sunken/lifted paving slabs outside the Hanbury Arms were reported to Highways and have now been remediated.

**2.6 Loose aco-channels – Hanbury Road**

Highways have now repaired the loose/clanking aco-channels opposite N-Stylz Barbers.

**2.7 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.

Parks will also address the weed growth on the steps and ramps in due course.

**2.8 Cleansing – Royal Square**

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

**2.9 Fly tipping – High Street**

Items left outside Savers and next to the Emporium Building have now been removed.

**2.10 Cracked wall – next to Emporium Building**

 The owner has now removed the top section of the wall to make the area safe.

**2.11 Aco-channels – Upper High Street**

A section of aco-channel opposite Murrays has been logged with Highways for repair, who will also arrange for detritus to be cleared from this channel.

**2.12 Enforcement – 47-48 High Street (former CK Stores)**

Building Control have now attended and attached plywood to the exposed mortar pillars on the front of the building to make this area safe.

Fly-tipping in the atrium of this building is an ongoing issue and will continue to be reported to the relevant departments.

**2.13 Overflowing manhole – High Street**

During a recent site visit, it was noted that effluent was flowing from the manhole between the former Premier Stores and Sweet Peas Nursery onto the High Street. This was reported to Welsh Water who cleared the blockage and confirmed that further works need to be carried out on the sewer pipe, and they will advise the Town Centre Team once this is completed.

**2.14 Granite blocks - across town**

These were recently repositioned; however this is an ongoing issue, and any further blocks moved out of position will continue to be addressed on Highways inspection visits.

**2.15 Town Centre Wayfinding Improvements**

Wayfinding across the five principal town centres of Bargoed, Blackwood, Caerphilly, Risca and Ystrad Mynach is set to improve with the installation and enhancement of town centre maps and noticeboards. These improvements are aimed at encouraging footfall, increasing dwell time, and helping users navigate the towns. Existing boards will be updated with new maps, whilst additional boards will be installed at key gateways to the towns that will enhance the experience for both residents and visitors.

This project is being funded by the UK Government’s Shared Prosperity Fund and is expected to be completed later in the year. An alternative graphic designer has been chosen to supply the artistic town centre maps, and they are scheduled to complete their designs by August 2025. The procurement process is underway to source a contractor for supply and installation of the frames.

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