

Linlithgow Planning Forum

Minutes of the Meeting held in the Canal Tea Room on Wed 12 Feb 2014

Present: John Kelly, Chair (L&LBCC), John Aitken (LCT), David Tait (LBA, L&LBCC, Black Bitch Mag), Clive Dyson (L&LBCC) and Mike Vickers (LCT, L&LBCC & LBA).

Apologies: Ron Smith (BB, LCT)

In Attendance: David Tough (Ryden), Craig Lynes (Cala) and Derek Lawson (Cala)

Purpose: To hear and discuss details of Cala's proposed housing development at "Springfield South" (the triangular field between Pilgrim's hill and Grange Knowe).

Cala Proposals Cala and Kensington & Edinburgh have lodged a PAN for proposed housing development at Springfield South. They are meeting with Linlithgow Planning Forum and Linlithgow & Linlithgow Bridge Community Council prior to public consultation, which will probably take place at Springfield School Community Wing from 2-8pm on a Friday in March.

John Kelly gave a brief introduction on the history of recent proposals for this site and Wallace Land's proposals for Burghmuir, including the grounds for rejection.

David Tait pointed out that the proposed site is zoned for campus style commercial development in the current Local Plan. He feels that this is the only suitable site available for business development and that it should be promoted for such use.

Cala tabled a working drawing for the development, which includes 51 homes: 43 four/five bedroom houses and 8 affordable homes. Issues discussed included preserving the excellent visual approach to Linlithgow, retention of preserved trees, access to Blackness Road, safe access routes to school, high speed internet access, home office provision, building finishes, whether the affordable housing aspect might be constructed elsewhere in Linlithgow and how Cala might contribute to funding infrastructure improvements in Linlithgow.

Cala feels that there is a shortage of housing land supply in West Lothian and that their proposal would help to reduce this problem.

The proposed timetable involves submitting detailed plans in April 2014, a decision around September 2014, work commencing mid 2015 and being completed about 3 years later, depending on sales rates.

Next Meetings Several meetings are required in the short term to progress a number of items and dates were fixed as Thursday 27 February, Thursday 13 March and Thursday 27 March, all at 3:30pm in the Mel Gray Centre (the Canal Tea Room is in use on Thursday afternoons).