

Linlithgow Planning Forum

Minutes of Meeting held at 6 Springfield Grange 2nd May 2017

1. **Present:** John Kelly, (JK) Convenor (L&LBCC, LBT), Máire McCormack (MM)(L&LBCC, TL) Ron Smith (RS), (BB, LBT, L&LBCC), Mike Vickers (MV), (LBT, L&LBCC & LBA), David Timperley (DGT) (LBT), Chris Long (LBT), Councillor David Tait (DT) (LBA, WLC)
2. **Apologies:** Fraser Falconer (LCDT, LLBCC), Martin Crook (LLBCC, TMG),)
3. **Minutes of the meeting of 20th April 2017 and matters arising:** in order to expedite discussion of the Vennel this item was deferred until the next meeting.
4. **Vennel Development:** The Vennel Development was discussed by the WLC Development and Transport Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel on 3rd April and the content of the planning guidance approved. Actions already taken are:
 - a. JK requested an informal meeting with Craig McCorriston (CM) to clarify the project context, aim and timeline. CM declined the meeting on the basis that WLC proposed to consult on the documents approved by the Scrutiny Panel and therefore there was nothing to gain from a meeting.
 - b. RS has produced a sketch of what might be possible.
 - c. JK has booked the Low Port Centre Lounge for an exhibition and public consultation on 6th June.

A brief discussion concluded with a unanimous commitment to engage with the project. It was considered the greatest opportunity yet to improve the townscape. In answer to Why-What-When of the Planning Forum's involvement with the project:

- Why? - The Planning Forum commits to being involved with the project proposed by WLC and detailed in the planning guidance. WLC state " The opening of the new partnership centre at the County Buildings and the move of partnership services to this building will result in a number of properties in and around The Vennel being surplus to requirements".
- What? - is the redevelopment
- When? - is the involvement of the Planning Forum now to create a programme of activity prior to the WLC consultation.

It was decided that the way forward was to co-operate with WLC and at the same time investigate the possibility of a trust making an application for asset transfer. The aim of the public meeting should be to assist the Planning Forum in making proposals which drive the design brief. WLC state that the urban design issues in the design guidance should be addressed through development opportunities. It was agreed that the WLC statement was too narrow and to delegate the initiative to a developer was wrong. This

is our opportunity to address the Plan for the Future strategic development of the town, our opportunity to decide what we do with the town centre and support this with detail.

The question of whether to treat the 6th June event as a Charrette was debated and rejected on the grounds that a Charrette is typically a structured workshop event. What we require is a high level view. The structure of the 6th June event was debated and it was decided that the exhibition would be centred on 3 displays with a questionnaire to gather views.

- A historic perspective of the Cross and Vennel area with photographs showing how the Cross and Vennel used to look like before redevelopment.

Action CL

- Layouts, Plans and Perspectives to demonstrate what could be possible.

Action RS, DGT, CL

- Extracts from Plan for the Future

Action JK

A number of suggestions were made on how to improve the Questionnaire. JK is to attend to suggestions and circulate the questionnaire for further comment.

Action JK

5. **Next meeting:** Thursday 1st June 3pm at Mike's house. The sole purpose of the meeting is to examine material for the 6th June and schedule the manning of the event.

John Kelly
Convenor
3rd May 2017