

Linlithgow Planning Forum

Minutes of the Meeting held in the Canal Tea Room on Thu 22 May 2014

- Present:** John Kelly, Chair (L&LBCC), Chris Long (LCT, BB), Mike Vickers (LCT, L&LBCC & LBA), David Timperley (DGT) of (LCT) Alan Brown (TL), Ron Smith (BB, LCT, L& LBCC) John Aitken (LCT), David Tait (DT) of (LBA, L&LBCC, Black Bitch Mag), Gill Fawcitt (LCDT)
- Apologies:** Roger Livermore (LCAG)
- Minutes** Minutes of previous meeting accepted
- Matters Arising**
- 1. Questionnaire** MV has contacted the relevant organisations to determine which organisations will sign up. The cost needs to be confirmed. A number of points were raised regarding the questionnaire. It was decided that JK would circulate the questionnaire for a final round of comments. It was agreed that the questionnaire should be suitable for use on-line or as a paper based survey and therefore should not exceed 2 A4 pages. Questions which lead to mutually exclusive conclusions are preferably avoided. The status of the respondent should be identified i.e. a person on the housing waiting list desperate for a council house will reply differently to a home owner answering the question "More starter homes for rent should be built in Linlithgow".
- Action JK/MV**
- 2. Attendance by Councillors** DT asked that our three Councillors be invited to the next meeting specifically to address concerns relating to the lateness of the Local Development Plan. JK agreed as Chair to send the invitation.
- Action JK/DT**
- Residential Development Kettlistoun Mains** A public consultation is being held in Burgh Halls on Thursday 5th June from 1pm to 8pm in connection with the planning permission in principle for a residential development at Kettlistoun Mains Ref: 0249/PAC/14. As stated in the previous minutes this application refers to land which is not designated for development in the current local development plan; comes prematurely in advance of the imminent local development plan, is outside the current settlement boundary and impacts an area of local landscape importance.
- Local Development Plan** JK reported on a conversation which suggested that the Main Issues Report will be delayed until September as Scottish Ministers have only recently (21 May) received the Housing Land Supplementary Guidance and have 28 days to confirm the allocation. There is an expectation that Ministers may change the allocations for West Lothian in the Guidance.

RS stated that West Lothian Council is one of the three slowest authorities in Scotland in progressing the LDP.

Burghmuir A appeal

JK reported on an email exchange with the Directorate for Planning and Environmental Appeals in which it was stated that confirmation was awaited from the planning authority and appellant regarding their availability for a hearing session on 29 and 30 July.

In reply to a question regarding a visit by the Reporter it was stated that although the Reporter will be visiting Linlithgow as part of his examination, he will be doing so unaccompanied; that is, without any of the parties to the appeal. The Community Council is welcome to attend the hearing. The reporter has yet to issue a formal procedure notice specifying the matters to be discussed at the hearing, but, as a party making relevant representation, it is likely that the Community Council will be invited to participate. The Civic Trust also made representations.

After a brief discussion it was decided that no further action on the approach to the hearing can be taken until the Reporter has announced his intended formal procedure.

A Plan for Linlithgow's Future (rev6)

The comments made at the previous meeting and confirmed in the minutes were endorsed by those not present at the meeting of 8th May. The comments were as follows:

1. The Guidelines and the Plan for Linlithgow's Future form the basis for an effective, objectives analysis of the forthcoming main issues report.
2. The plan should be made impersonal (deleting "our", "we", etc).
3. Sections 4,5 and 6 should be the issues, the plan and the vision explaining what is what is meant by these terms.
4. Solutions currently in the issues should be carried forward to the vision.
5. A glossary of acronyms is required.
6. Statements, particularly critical statements, should be examined to ensure that they cannot be quoted out of context as a means of denigrating the whole document. It was accepted that parts of the document are certain to be taken out of context but the document should be examined to avoid obvious occurrences.

In discussion focusing on section 6.4 Transport and Accessibility DGT suggested that the proposals contained in the vision should be accompanied by a hierarchy of objectives such that the importance/desirability of each can be ascertained. It was decided that

some system of ranking the proposals in the vision was required and whilst some acknowledgement of the affordability of the proposal should be made this alone should not affect the ranking.

The scheme to “Reclaim the High St” is to be circulated with a recommendation for adoption.

JK will complete the edit and circulate before the next meeting.

Action JK

AOB

There was no other business and the meeting closed at 17.02

Next Meetings

5th June and 26th June; 1530 at Canal Tea Room, Linlithgow Canal Basin