

Linlithgow Planning Forum

Draft Minutes of the Inaugural Meeting held in the Canal Tea Room on Wednesday 3 July 2013

Present: John Aitken (LCT), Debbie Dow (L&LBCC), Clive Dyson (L&LBCC), Iain Paton (LCT), Ron Smith (LCT, Burgh Beautiful, L&LBCC & LCDT), David Tait (LBA, L&LBCC, VWL, Black Bitch Mag) and Mike Vickers (L&LBCC, LCT & LBA).

Apologies: John Kelly (L&LBCC)

Purpose: The purpose of the meeting was to inaugurate the Linlithgow Planning Forum and to discuss how it should proceed.

Inauguration: The draft Constitution (Issue 2) was reviewed and changes were made to clauses 2 a), 4 and 7. It was agreed to adopt the constitution with these changes (Attached). The founding Member Organisations shall be Linlithgow & Linlithgow Bridge Community Council, Linlithgow Civic Trust, Linlithgow Business Association, Burgh Beautiful and Linlithgow Community Development Trust. Other organisations that wish to become Member Organisations should now apply.

Officers: It was agreed to appoint the Convenor and Secretary at a later meeting. **Action: All**

Wider Community Involvement: It was agreed that the Planning Forum should inform the wider community in and around Linlithgow on planning issues and should actively seek people's views. The means for achieving this include:

- Social media: Planning Forum Blog, Facebook, Twitter etc.
- Websites
- Articles in The Black Bitch magazine
- Press releases to the Linlithgow Gazette
- Gatherings that are open to the public

Overall Aim: DT aired the issue of the Planning forum's overall aim: Should we campaign for continuing "restraint" or for an agreed level of development coupled with improvements to infrastructure through Planning Gain.

There seemed to be agreement that some level of development is inevitable. The consensus view is that the way forward should be through controlled development over time, coupled with necessary infrastructure improvements.

Guidelines: CD had produced draft Guidelines for the Linlithgow Plan on behalf of L&LBCC and it was agreed that this document should form the basis of the Planning Forum's position.

Clive will change the document's heading to "Linlithgow Planning Forum" and will act as editor, accepting input from members, updating the document and circulating revised versions until consensus is reached. **Action: CD**

Meet the Planners: It was agreed that representatives of the Linlithgow Planning Forum should meet West Lothian Council planning officials for an informal exchange of views aimed at starting a dialogue on how we should proceed. The relevant planning official seems to be Craig McCorrison.

Members should circulate their views on the questions that might be asked at this meeting. It was agreed that the aim is for non-confrontational co-operation:– how can we work effectively with the planners for the benefit of all. **Action: All**

Weekly List: It was agreed that those who regularly look at the weekly planning lists should draw up a rota to cover holidays and other absences so that nothing contentious is missed.

Where it is felt necessary, the Community Council has the power to ask for an extension to the time for consultation and it is also possible to ask for matters set for decision by offers to go before the Development Control Committee for decision.

Thanks: The Linlithgow Planning Forum is grateful to Linlithgow & Linlithgow Bridge Community Council for providing the venue for the meeting and to Mike Vickers for supplying refreshments.

John Aitken – 4 July 2013