

Linlithgow Planning Forum

Minutes of Meeting held 4th April 2019 Springfield Grange

1. **Present:** Ron Smith (RS) Convenor (BB, LBT, L&LBCC), Sue Friel (SF)(Chair TL & L&LBCC), Martin Crook (LLBCC, TMG), John Kelly, (JK) (L&LBCC, LBT), Marilyn MacLaren (MM)(Chair LCT), Máire McCormack (MMcC)(L&LBCC & TL) Mike Vickers (MV), (LBT, L&LBCC & LBA).
2. **Apologies:** Fraser Falconer (LCDT, LLBCC), Joyce Hartley (LLBCC), David Tait (DT) (LBA, WLC), David Timperley (DGT) (LBT).
3. **Minutes of the meeting of 7th March 2018:** Approved.
4. **Matters Arising:**
 - a. Vennel Participation. JK and RS represented the Community Council at a meeting on 26 March with Craig McCorrison in Livingston to discuss the participation of the Community Council in the Vennel project. Craig McCorrison made several points namely:
 - i. The Vennel property has been declared surplus to requirements.
 - ii. A group of four officers have been tasked with investigating options ranging from “a lick of paint” to some form of redevelopment.
 - iii. There is no project at present and therefore no project group.
 - iv. The four officers will report the viable options to the Corporate Management Team with a recommendation for a way forward.
 - v. There may be no briefing activity and no further consultation.Concern was voiced over whether the participation request is now closed as a meeting has taken place. There was also concern over the report of no further briefing activity. MM stated that we had a responsibility to keep people informed. It was decided to wait for two weeks and if we had not received a report of the meeting with Craig McCorrison by that time then we would commence a community information campaign founded on the website. It was important to recognise that the Vennell is a site of national importance.
 - b. Templars Court. Following a brief discussion of the comments made by Craig McCorrison at the Linlithgow Local Area Committee on 5th March 2019 the following actions were taken:
 - i. Craig McCorrison’s report to the Local Area Committee was circulated
 - ii. JK will write to Virginia Sharp, Strategic Heritage Management Officer at HES to seek HES's opinion of the current gap sites in Linlithgow High Street.

Action JK
 - iii. Craig McCorrison is awaiting information with respect to ground conditions from McCarthy and Stone.
 - iv. MMcC will contact the residents of Templars Court to ascertain their understanding of the current position with regards to the frontage building.

Action MMcC
 - v. McCarthy and Stone have undertaken to keep customers, neighbours and community representatives informed. It was decided at the recent Community Council meeting to commit more information to the website and involve the community in bringing pressure to bear on McCarthy and Stone to satisfactorily conclude the project. Letters required to Martyn Day MP and Fiona Hyslop MSP.

Action JK

- vi. MM corrected the previous minutes which stated the intention to correlate all e-mails received to date. The action was to present a clear synopsis of what has gone on and when the Councillors became aware of the current problem. JK undertook to circulate the minutes of 1 February 2018. Ranald Dodds' email recently circulated requires examination. **Action JK**
- vii. A timeline for the project was produced from the available information but this lacked exact dates for the commencement of work and the commencement of demolition.
- viii. The National Records Office have a copy of the section 75 agreement. This has been ordered and is expected to be received within the next week. As soon as it is received it will be circulated. **Action JK**
- c. Victoria Hall; A letter was written to West Lothian Council complaining of the unsatisfactory nature of the temporary fencing which is occupying the pavement in front of the Victoria Hall site. A query was raised regarding any regulations governing the construction and maintenance of a site hoarding. The temporary fencing has been re-erected. The query was raised as to when application 0591/FUL/18 goes to committee. A further query was related to when a building warrant was issued and whether there is a contract with a builder. **Action JK**

5. Planning List

- a. 0148/H/19268 High St, satellite receiver dish. Query was raised regarding guidance on the installation of satellite dishes in the conservation area. MC suggested a survey of the High Street.
- b. There was a short discussion on the policy for High Street facias particularly with regards to the new Barbers signage for which no planning application has been made. MM undertook to contact members of the Civic Trust to determine whether they would be willing to produce a simple pamphlet giving guidance on fascia signs etc in the conservation area with best practice examples. JK undertook to circulate the planning guidance for Linlithgow shopfronts. **Action JK/MM**

6. Plan for the Future second edition

	Section	Author	Status
a.	Environmental Sustainability		
b.	Built/Architectural Heritage and Tourism	MV	To complete
c.	Business and Employment	DT	To complete
d.	Housing	JK	Complete
e.	Transport and Accessibility	DGT	Complete
f.	Retailing and Vennel	RS	Complete
g.	Community, Cultural & Sports Facilities and Open Space	FF/LCDD	
h.	Education & Health Facilities	MV	Draft
i.	Funding	RS	To complete
j.	Implementation	JK	To complete
k.	Introduction	JK	To complete

In the review of the Plan for the Future second edition it was agreed:

- SF would determine whether Transition Linlithgow would be willing to complete the section entitled environmental sustainability.

Action SF

- JK would write to Fraser Faulkner to determine whether Linlithgow Community Development Trust would take responsibility for the community culture and sports section. **Action JK**
- MV will pass the education section, once completed, to MM. **Action MV/MM**
- MC will contact Dr Boyle to ascertain whether he would be willing to contribute to the health facilities section. **Action MC**

7. **AOB.**

- a. 1221/FUL/18 Lady Park footpath. Reference was made to the Community Council discussion and Gazette article. The ensuing discussion posed the questions:
 - Is there a planning reason for objection?
 - Bearing in mind the cost, is this footpath the best use of funds?
 - Is erosion defence an environmental reason for objection?
 - b. In a discussion relating to the planning implications of the various projects associated with transport infrastructure as a part of the multimodal transport appraisal study it was suggested that Linlithgow Community Council should arrange a joint meeting with Bo'ness Community Council and Winchburgh Community Council. There is an opportunity for a story in the Black Bitch and the Gazette.
 - c. A discussion of the trees at The Cross being superseded by two planters yet to be installed, prompted a discussion on trees in the High Street generally. RS agreed to circulate a photograph of the two trees at The Cross.
8. **Next Meeting:** The next meeting will be on 2nd May 2019 at 3.30pm at Linlithgow Partnership Centre.

Meeting closed at 21.20.

John Kelly, Secretary, 6th April 2019.