

Falkirk Council Community Services

Minute of Meeting Bo'ness Development Group Bo'ness Library - 24 August 2009

Present: Douglas Duff - Head of Economic Development, Falkirk Council
Pete Reid - Strategic Projects Manager, Falkirk Council
Colin Frame - Project Surveyor, Falkirk Council
Jacquie McArthur - Economic Development Officer, Falkirk Council
Councillor John Constable - Falkirk Council
Councillor Adrian Mahoney - Falkirk Council
Councillor Joe Lemetti - Falkirk Council
Alex Wood - ING Real Estates Ltd
Len Ainslie - Bo'ness Area Forum
Gail Fairholm - Bonnie Bo'ness
George Paterson - THI Project Officer, Falkirk Council
Mary-Jane Armstrong - Town Centre Management Ltd
John Mayes - SRPS
David Crookston - Bo'ness Residents Harbour Group

Apologies: Paul Shave - Upper Forth Boat Club
Madelene Hunt - Bo'ness Community Council
Councillor Harry Constable - Falkirk Council
Val Trotter - Bo'ness Means Business
Kate Kane - Local Community Planning Officer, Falkirk Council
Alastair Mitchell - Town Centre Management Ltd

1.0 Minutes of Last Meeting

1.1 The minutes of the last meeting were taken as a true record of the last meeting.

2.0 Matters Arising

2.1 Pete Reid said that he had received an email from Madeleine Hunt on 8 August and the issues read would be addressed during the course of the agenda.

3.0 Town Centre Regeneration Update

3.1 Colin Frame gave a presentation on the Development Agreement with ING (copy attached). Colin confirmed that the Development Agreement had now been

signed on the basis of previously approved Heads of Terms and is currently in the hands of the Council's solicitors to distribute.

- 3.2 Colin also updated the group by advising that the Flood Prevention Scheme, which is critical to the regeneration scheme, is moving forward with completion incorporating a coffer dam expected in September 2010.

4.0 Town Centres' Funding

- 4.1 Pete Reid updated the group on the recent bid made to the Scottish Governments Town Centres Regeneration Fund which resulted in Falkirk Council being awarded £2m. He went on to explain that the money will be allocated in Bo'ness for the following projects:

- Enhanced streetscape works.
- To contribute to the current gap funding that exists following Historic Scotland's decision to drop the former St Mary's Church and Former Liberal Club properties from the initiative.

He went on to explain that the money allocated is not project specific but that there is a review of proposed projects underway with a view to making a recommendation to Policy & Resources Committee on 8 September.

- 4.2 Councillor John Constable said that he was pleased that the Scottish Government had allowed the decision on how the money was to be spent to be made at a local level.
- 4.3 Douglas Duff said that a quality submission was made and thanked Pete for his efforts as well as local organisations for their support during the bid process.

5.0 Townscape Heritage Initiative

- 5.1 George provided an update to the group which included the following:-

- Official opening of the Hippodrome received outstanding media coverage.
- 15-17 South Street - scaffolding removed and is now due to complete end September.
- 50-52 North Street - tender has been approved and a pre start meeting has been arranged.
- 37 Stewart Avenue - building warrant application is outstanding but there is a very short period for completion but HLF have indicated an extension to the THI to accommodate these properties.
- Anderson Trust Properties - work is well underway on shop fronts.
- Anchor Tavern - work underway.
- Sneddon Solicitors, 12 North Street - contract let, programme awaited.

- 31 South Street - Offers now made to 9 applicants and this complicated process is moving forward.
- 25 South Street - As above.
- 41 South Street - Tender documents being prepared.
- Girsey Nicols - No progress to report.

5.2 Pete said that he had received an email from Madeleine Hunt stating that she was disappointed with the progress made on 15-17 South Street.

In addition she complained that vans are occupying spaces in the town which they shouldn't and Councillor John Constable urged George to ensure appropriate consents are in place.

It was agreed appropriate checks would be made regarding Roads consent granted to the developer as these may still be active.

6.0 Promotion

6.1 Mary-Jane updated the group on forthcoming events/initiative in the town including the Italian Market which will be in the town on 19 September and on the 20 September at Kinneil House as part of Big Roman Week. Other initiatives include:-

- Cheque It Out Campaign
- SRPS Open Day - 17 October
- Bo'ness Christmas Lights Switch-On
- Aviemore Reindeer
- Halloween Event

Madeleine Hunt expressed her vote of thanks to Mary-Jane and TCM Ltd for the Victorian Street Fair via email.

7.0 Any Other Business

7.1 There was no other business.

8.0 Date of Next Meeting

8.1 The next meeting is to take place on Wednesday 28 October at 10.00am.