

  
**Falkirk Council  
Community Services**

**Minute of Meeting - Denny Development Group  
20 March 2008**

Present: Douglas Duff - Head of Economic Development, Falkirk Council  
Ian Wallace -Henry Boot Developments  
Cllr Alex Waddell – Chairman, Denny Development Group  
Cllr Jim Blackwood - Denny and Banknock  
Cllr Joe Lemetti – Depute Convener Economic Development  
Mary-Jane Armstrong – Town Centre Management  
Raymond Murray – Business Representative  
George Stevenson - Business Representative  
Claire Thorpe - Community Education, Falkirk Council  
Frank McKenna – St Alexander’s Church

Apologies: Colin Frame – Falkirk Council

**1.0 Minutes of Last Meeting**

The minutes of the last meeting were taken as read.

**2.0 Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising.

**2.0 Town Centre Regeneration Update**

Douglas Duff advised the group on the current position following the consultation phase. There was discussion on the sale of Council assets to Henry Boot in order to secure a redeveloped town centre and improved facilities for the community. He explained that there is a robust method in place to monitor and evaluate costs incurred in order to report progress of the scheme to both the Council and the community.

He also reported that although the scheme was broadly agreed, the consultation phase has raised some design issues that required further consideration. This included concerns raised by St Alexander’s Church in relation to usage opposite the Church. Douglas reported that the scheme Architect, Robert Lumme was looking at some options to resolve this issue. Cllr Waddell asked if it was a possibility to access the loading bay from the car park but Ian Wallace said that the difference in height between the two would make this impossible.

Further concerns were raised about the number of delivery vehicles accessing the town centre to reach the loading bay. Jacquie McArthur explained that there had been the same concerns in Stenhousemuir but we had negotiated this with the food store to ensure number of vehicles and delivery times suits the pattern of the town centre. Overall, deliveries and traffic coming into the town centre would reduce from vehicle numbers experienced currently.

Ian Wallace was asked if there were any plans for a public house opposite the development and he confirmed that there were no plans for such an establishment.

#### Denny War Memorial

Jacquie McArthur informed the group that a War Memorial Working Group had been established to look at the design and siting of the War Memorial in the new town centre. She reported that the first meeting had been well attended with around 8 interested parties present and that the next meeting will take place in the summer. The group discussed the opportunity which exists to get schools and other members of the community involved in this and other town centre regeneration activities. Jacquie to look at this.

#### Town Centre Plans

Ian Wallace reported that near to finalized plans will be available for the next meeting.

### **3.0 Town Centre Promotion**

Mary Jane outlined a number of town centre initiatives that have taken place and are planned for the coming months including:

- Farmers Market – TCM would like to bring this successful market to the town
- Shop Local campaign – including pocket guides and promotion in shops
- Sparkle magazine distributed to every household in the Falkirk area
- Business of the Month promotion
- Denny Day – has proved to be a huge success
- Themed Days – working with the schools on this
- Welcome Pack – for new businesses, people moving into the area etc

Mary-Jane is to distribute to the group at the next meeting a timetable of planned promotional activity in the town along with an example of the Welcome Pack discussed.

#### **4.0 Any Other Business**

##### Church Walk

Raymond Murray asked when there will be help with the Church Walk water ingress problem. Douglas reported that technical work was underway on this and that a report is to go the Council before any further information can be given.

##### Harship Relief

Jacque informed the group that businesses affected negatively by the regeneration activity will be able to apply for Hardship Relief once the development is underway. She was asked to bring along further details of this to the next meeting.

##### Communication

George Stevenson asked for an update on items to be discussed at the next meeting at least 2 weeks prior the meeting taking place. This is to give him time to discuss with businesses prior to putting forward their comments at the meeting.

There was discussion on invitation list and the need to ensure that all relevant parties receive invites to this meeting. Jacque to update the group at the next meeting.

##### Station Masters House

Group requested an update on this at next meeting.

##### Kilsyth Town Centre

Jacque reported that additional external funding opportunities for Denny are being explored and an update will be given at the next meeting.

#### **4.0 Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting is to take place on 26 June at 6.30pm in the Broompark Centre. A schedule of subsequent meetings will be issued at the next meeting.