

**Falkirk Council
Community Services**

**Minute of Meeting of Denny Development Group
Broompark Community Centre, Denny
Thursday 26 June 2008**

Present: Douglas Duff, Falkirk Council
Colin Frame, Falkirk Council
Councillor Martin Oliver
Councillor Jim Blackwood
Councillor John McNally
Charles Bell, Architect, Keppie Design
Iain Wallace, Henry Boot
Christine Bell, Denny Community Council
Mick McIntosh, Denny Community Council
George Stevenson, Denny Business Representative
Raymond Murray, Denny Business Representative
Frank McKenna, St Alexander's Church
Pat McGunables, St Alexander's Church
John McMillan, St Alexander's Church
Jim Bell, Central Scotland Police

Apologies: Councillor Alex Waddell
Pete Reid, Falkirk Council

1.0 Minutes & Matters Arising

Councillor Jim Blackwood was nominated to the Chair. The Minutes of the previous meeting were discussed. It was noted that the matters arising would be covered in the course of the meeting.

2.0 Town Centre Regeneration Update

Colin Frame gave an update of progress on the plans for the regeneration of the town centre, indicating that it was anticipated that the Development Agreement involving the Council and Henry Boot would be concluded by mid-August. This would permit Henry Boot to move to prepare plans for the submission of a planning application hopefully in mid-October.

Colin circulated a sketch plan of the proposed Library, advising that this requires to be finalised for inclusion in the Development Agreement. The plan incorporated comments previously received, including input from Library staff.

St Alexander's Church

Colin outlined the terms of a letter he had sent to the Archdiocese in regard to issues they had raised in a meeting that had taken place involving representatives of the Church, Council and Henry Boot concerning the design of the scheme in vicinity of the Church. The letter addressed the issues of traffic generation, HGV movements, access to the service bay, parking provision and design. In summary it indicated that there would be a significant reduction in traffic movements and in the number of HGVs using Stirling Street. The scheme permitted increased parking, including spaces in front of the Church. There would be a reduction in noise at this location and the public realm would be improved (the offer had been made for the Church to participate in this design).

Richard Hamblett had advised that the Archdiocese would maintain a watching brief over the proposals. No further response had been supplied by the Church and it was requested that they supply any further comments they had on the scheme in response to Colin's letter.

Councillor Oliver enquired whether any suggestions had been made by the Church or the Archdiocese regarding the approach to the Service Yard. The principal concern of the Church however had been the location of the yard at this end of the site.

Options for the relocation were examined fully in the course of the meeting but it was recognised that these were not practical without a major re-design of the town centre scheme. Charles Bell displayed sketch designs of the location demonstrating how the access would look and measures to mitigate some of the Church's concerns.

It was proposed that a revised scheme be prepared for the next meeting, showing how the concerns of the Church might be addressed.

Concern was expressed that many people in the town were becoming disillusioned about the scheme and the delay in its delivery. There was some confusion also caused by the remedial works to the buildings (it was explained that these were temporary measures to tackle water ingress). The fact that tenancies to the housing properties had been offered added to this confusion (Douglas offered to check the position here).

Church Walk Blocks

Colin circulated the report that had been issued to the Policy & Resources Committee outlining the position with the Church Walk blocks and the measures proposed to mitigate the costs being incurred by traders due to water damage.

George Stevenson welcomed the action proposed and queried how payments might be supplied to privately rented premises. It was confirmed that payments would be made to the occupants of the premises. Cllr McNally also welcomed the proposal.

War Memorial

Jacquie McArthur had convened a sub group to examine the prospects for the war memorial and this had gone well. The option of using the existing plaques was also being considered.

3.0 Any Other Business

Councillor McNally queried whether the station masters house would be put to the market and expressed concern that the building needed to be retained. A position statement was offered for the next meeting.

George Stevenson queried what actions were proposed in relation to shopfront etc. improvements elsewhere in the town centre. Colin reported that Denny doesn't qualify at this point for Townscape Heritage Initiative funding, but that the Council's External Funding team were examining other options for funding support. Raymond Murray queried the availability of Hardship Relief for shops on the east side of Stirling Street. It was noted that this would not apply until works commence.

4.0 Date of Next Meeting

A table listing proposed dates for future meetings was circulated.