



**Falkirk Council
Community Services**

**Minute of Meeting – Grangemouth Development Group
21 April 2008**

Present: Douglas Duff - Head of Economic Development, Falkirk Council
Pete Reid – Strategic Projects Manager, Falkirk Council
Jacquie McArthur – Falkirk Council
Frank McChord – Local Planning Officer
Cllr Alastair McNeill – Falkirk Council
Cllr Joe Lemetti – Depute Convener Economic Development
Cllr Angus Macdonald – Falkirk Council
Cllr Robert Spears – Falkirk Council
Cllr Craig Martin – Falkirk Council
Alastair Mitchell – TCM Ltd
Allan McCallum – Grangemouth Community Council
Walter Inglis – Grangemouth Community Council
Julie Reid – Grangemouth Community Reference Group
Nadeem Rabbani – Retailer Representative
Lorraine Waugh – Retailer Representative
James Waugh – Retailer Representative
Alan Brown – Retailer Representative
Drew Lambert – Reith Lambert
Robin McGlory – ADF Architects

Apologies Cllr Allyson Black

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 Consultation Feedback

Pete Reid presented a briefing paper to the group on feedback of the consultation exercise that had been undertaken over a 3 week period from 11 - 31 March of the revised masterplan. This included:-

- Advertising in the local press
- Presentation to retailers group
- Presentation to Grangemouth Development Group
- Display boards in three locations – One Stop Shop, Library and Sports Centre
- Plan available on-line with good response
- Presentation to the Community Reference Group
- Open exhibition held at Grangemouth Library on 20 March from 2-8pm
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He reported that 25 comments were left in the boxes provided, the majority of which were favourable. However, the concerns noted included the retention of the Citizens Advice Bureau, the design of the new library building and ensuring quality finishes and the need for additional car parking. The Briefing Paper is enclosed.

3.0 Any Other Business

Asda

Lorraine Waugh asked if the developer was reconsidering its position with regards to a town centre development in light of the detrimental affect Asda has had on the town centre. Drew Lambert stated that a new town centre food store and mix of shops will help with the overall footfall and vitality. Chairperson, Cllr McNeill asked the business representatives about their trading position since the opening of Asda and all with the exception of the Post Office (Alan Brown) reported a downturn in trade.

TCM Activity

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

- Farmers Market – has been well received by retailers and the community and as a result will now be a monthly event in the town centre.
- Cheque it Out Campaign – launching this successful initiative soon.
- Business Improvement Bids – if bids are successful this will mean new money for Grangemouth.

Attracting Visitors

Discussion followed on attracting shoppers into the town. Walter Inglis commented that the shopping environment needs to be improved in order to get visitors. Pete Reid commented that the redevelopment proposals would address this.

Free Parking

Walter Inglis suggested that with the existing traffic problems, Grangemouth has an opportunity to capture retailers who want to avoid congestion experienced in Falkirk town centre. Cllr Spears said that the town centre should also maintain free parking once the development is complete. Pete Reid confirmed that this would be the case.

Town Clock

Pete Reid informed the group that the top part of the town clock is currently in storage and that he is keen to incorporate it into the new town centre proposals or to a suitable gateway location in the town. Consultation with community groups will take place on this and they would be involved in the delivery of the project on a similar basis to the Miners Memorial in Bo'ness.

Traffic Group

Cllr Spears suggested that a group be established involving the Community Council and local businesses to look at traffic problems. Pete Reid reported that a Traffic Impact Survey will be carried out under the proposals as a condition of any planning application and that guidance will be obtained from what this study highlights.

Superstore

Cllr Spears asked the group if they would like to see another food retailer in the town. Lorraine Waugh said that failure to implement this would result in many of the existing businesses pulling out of the town centre.

4.0 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting is to take place sometime in June. A schedule of meetings will be issued at the next meeting.