



Falkirk Council Community Services

Minute of Meeting Stenhousemuir Development Group Wednesday 13 May 2009

Present: Pete Reid - Strategic Projects Manager, Falkirk Council
Colin Frame - Principal Surveyor, Falkirk Council
Jacquie McArthur - Econ Dev Officer, Falkirk Council
Councillor Lynda Kenna - Falkirk Council
Councillor J Lemetti - Falkirk Council
Councillor Tom Coleman - Falkirk Council
Charles Ambrose - Larbert & Stenhousemuir Community Council
Jim Bell - Central Scotland Police
Bobby Towers - Towers Hairdressing, Business Representative

Apologies: Douglas Duff - Head of Economic Development, Falkirk Council
Frank McChord - Local Planning Officer, Falkirk Council
Councillor Linda Gow - Falkirk Council
Councillor Craig Martin - Falkirk Council
Councillor Stephen Carleschi - Falkirk Council
Mary-Jane Armstrong - Town Centre Management Ltd
Alastair Mitchell - Town Centre Management Ltd

1.0 Minutes of Last Meeting

1.1 Minutes accepted by the Group.

2.0 Matters Arising

2.1 The matters arising were addressed throughout the meeting.

3.0 Regeneration Update

3.1 **Colin Frame gave an update on the redevelopment project in the town centre. The main points being:-**

- Ashleigh Construction appointed to work on the new Tryst Community Centre and Health Centre with completion expected August 2009 and April 2010 respectively.

- Block A has commenced with the contractor Dunne Construction confident that they will complete in August 2009.
- Co-Op have made the Council aware of their plans to close their store and vacate the current site and hope to redevelop the store in the future. Further information will be provided as it becomes available. At early phases of the regeneration the Co-Op indicated they would be closing their store despite best efforts of Council officers and the developer to integrate their interest.

Jacquie McArthur was able to provide an update on the following town centre issues:-

- Shopmobility is still progressing with training set up for those organisations willing to take part - Larbert Library and One Stop Shop. She urged all local retailers to consider taking a scooter during the pilot scheme.
- Roads have confirmed that they will be extending the existing bus route into the town centre on completion of the widened road on Park Drive - April 2010.
- Economic Downturn Workshops have been undertaken across the 4 district town centres and Falkirk town centre. The appointed consultant John Cowan is currently following up this work with visits to retailers to provide business health checks and general business advice. Jacquie reminded those present to make a request for a free visit through her at the number 01324 590973. Thereafter, masterclasses will be provided covering all the main topics requested by the retail community and further details will be provided as this information becomes available. The classes are likely to take place at the end of the Summer.

4.0 Town Centre Promotion

- 4.1 Jacquie McArthur confirmed that the new signage as agreed with the local retail community was now in place around the hoarding surrounding Block A. She said that once Block A was completed the signage would moved to strategic positions in the town centre.
- 4.2 A town centre event is scheduled to take place in the town centre all day on 23 May. The Take the Right Route is a launch event aimed at encouraging people to use their cars less and use public transport, walking and cycling to move around their towns. It is expected that the event will bring additional footfall into the town centre as visitors will come to see stunt riders (World Record and BBC TV star), bicycle trails, interactive workshops, live music and lots of complementary street art.

5.0 Town Centre Regeneration Fund

- 5.1 Pete notified the group of the Scottish Governments Town Centres Regeneration Fund of £60m which has been made available. He confirmed that Falkirk Council would be submitting a bid for this money which would be used if successful to accelerate acquisition process. He asked the group to support the bid as community back up would be a key element in the decision making process. Further information will be provided to the group as it becomes available.

6.0 Any Other Business

- 6.1 Bobby Towers asked if there was any interest in the new retail units at Block A.
- Colin was able to confirm that as yet no interest had been noted.

7.0 Date & Time of Next Meeting

- 7.1 The next meeting will be 4.00 pm, Wednesday 16 September 2009.