



**Falkirk Council  
Community Services**

**Minute of Meeting  
Stenhousemuir Town Centre Development Group  
Larbert Library - Wednesday 16 September 2009**

Present: Colin Frame - Falkirk Council  
Jacquie McArthur - Falkirk Council  
Councillor Lynda Kenna - Falkirk Council  
Councillor Charles Macdonald - Falkirk Council  
Mary-Jane Armstrong - Town Centre Management Ltd  
Charles Ambrose - Larbert & Stenhousemuir Community Council  
PC Davie Reid - Central Scotland Police  
PC Scott Noble - Central Scotland Police  
Bobby Towers - Towers Hairdressing, Business Representative

Apologies: Douglas Duff - Falkirk Council  
Pete Reid - Falkirk Council  
Frank McChord - Falkirk Council  
Councillor Linda Gow - Falkirk Council  
Councillor Craig Martin - Falkirk Council  
Councillor Steven Carleschi - Falkirk Council  
Councillor Lynda Kenna - Falkirk Council  
Councillor Tom Coleman - Falkirk Council  
Charles Ambrose - Larbert & Stenhousemuir Community Council

**1.0 Minutes of Last Meeting**

1.1 Charles Ambrose requested that the previous minutes be altered to reflect his request that the Community Council supported the need for a police presence in the town centre and have written to Central Scotland Police to request they look at this.

**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:-

- The Tryst Community Centre is now complete and staff now occupy the building. Ashleigh Construction have been very efficient and helpful throughout the development. The Site Manager has worked closely with the Clerk of Works to ensure that work standards have been maintained to a very high standard resulting in very minimal snagging works which have now been completed fully. There will be an official opening at sometime in the future and the Group will be appraised of this as the information becomes available.
- The Health Centre is on target for completion in April 2010.
- Block A opened in July and as yet there has been little interest from potential retailers. Marketing boards advertising the space are being prepared and the agent remains optimistic of occupancy. Bobby Towers asked if we can influence the type of retailer that goes into the units. Colin confirmed that we cannot in anyway influence this decision.
- The Lido is currently being maintained by Falkirk Council with support from a specialist ecologist who has managed to get all of the previous issues with the pond under control and in doing so has planted appropriate plants to help with litter and welfare of the wildlife there.
- The Co-op building remains vacant. Link Housing have shown an interest for potential residential units with possibly retail on the ground floor. This is subject to the appropriate planning approval being sought.
- Drainage in relation to football pitch remains a problem. Colin is working to resolve this.

3.2 Councillor Kenna reported that she has received a number of complaints from residents about contractors work vans blocking James Street and she added that some cars have been damaged as a result of this. Colin promised to contact the Site Manager to resolve this issue.

#### **4.0 Town Centre Promotion**

4.1 Mary-Jane provided an update on forthcoming promotion as follows:-

- Italian Market will be visiting the town centre on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> & Friday 18<sup>th</sup> September. To complement the market, Mary Jane has booked Italian Music for the two days.
- Music Event to be put on in town centre on 24 October which will involve live music from local bands and a number of side shows to attract people into the town.

- Big Wolf Theatre Company will be putting on a show at the Christmas Light Switch On Event on Saturday 28 November.
- 4.2 Councillor Charles Macdonald congratulated Mary Jane for all her hard work and efforts in bringing the Italian Market to the town. Discussion followed on how retailers get involved in the event and maximize footfall to their shops.

## **5.0 Any Other Business**

### **5.1 Town Centres Regeneration Fund**

Colin updated the group on the recent bid made to the Scottish Government Town Centres' Regeneration Fund and confirmed that £2m had been secured for Falkirk. He went on to say that this money would allow for high quality gateway signage and to be positioned at the entrance the to new town centre. A sum will also be allocated to the Public Art project currently underway. He thanked those who had supported the bid.

### **5.2 Economic Downturn**

Jacque reminded the group that a series of free masterclasses are still available until the end of November on a range of retail topics.

### **5.3 Acorn Pets**

Discussion followed on the closure of Acorn Pets in the town centre and the rumor circulating that a restaurant was to be opened on the site. Falkirk Council Officers had no knowledge of this but would clarify the situation at the next meeting.

### **5.4 Town Centre Security**

Bobby Towers asked about the role of Community Wardens in the town centre. He as a town centre retailer finds that the CCTV is ineffective in dealing with the anti-social behaviour experienced by him around his salon. PC David Reid promised to take up Bobby's concerns with local PC Scott Noble and Sgt Euan Wilson, Area Constable. In addition, he will arrange for a Crime Prevention Survey carried out in the town centre to highlight any problems and will report back at the next Development Group Meeting.

Jacque McArthur suggested inviting the Community Wardens along to the next Development Group meeting.

### **5.5 Community Councils**

Charles Ambrose reported to the group that the Community Council will be dissolving and re-grouping with new members over the coming weeks. He

confirmed that he will not be standing for future elections. The Group thanked Charles for his contribution over the past few years and wished him well in his retirement.

## **6.0 Date & Time of Next Meeting**

- 6.1 The date of the next meeting will be 9 December at 4pm in Stenhousemuir Primary School. The Group will be joined by Young Ambassadors from the school who will perform their play "My Future's in Falkirk".