

Development Working Group

Note of meeting held on 2nd September 2010 in the Braeport Centre

Present : Alan Booth, Alistair Pringle, Bill McLean, Ken Mitchell, Grant Wilson, David Prescott, Catriona Whitton, Guy Crawford, Ian Stein, Dougal Thornton

Alan Booth opened the meeting by welcoming Guy and Catriona. He then went on to summarise the DDT's response to the Main Issues Report (Local Development Plan) and thanked everyone for their contributions. He hoped that the group could now move on to looking at more detailed topics, specifically related to the High Street and its immediate surroundings, namely:

- The old Co-op building
- The Chinese restaurant
- The Stirling Arms
- Streetscape/shop fronts improvements
- The Mill Row car park.

He also mentioned an on-going dialogue which he was having with Stirling Council re open space, including a management plan for the Laighhills.

Ian Stein gave an update of the High Street shop fronts initiative, highlighting the fact that the deadline for a grant application (to Historic Scotland?) was the end of September. Contact is to be made with the Environment Working Group who are leading on this.

Dougal Thornton said that he had spoken to the Council's Roads Department regarding the Mill Row car park. He got the impression that it had been put on the back burner but thought that if it was pushed hard enough via the local Councillors then some action might be achieved.

The meeting went on to discuss the various supermarket proposals, recognising that what the developers were telling us did not necessarily agree with the community's needs or aspirations. Mention was made of the need to get detailed clarification of current sewerage and water capacity, taking account of current planning permissions. Ken Mitchell also expressed puzzlement as to why the proposed expansion of business use at Duckburn was discounted by the planners in their MIR assessments.

Alan Booth explained that the Trust were currently investigating the feasibility of running a 'Planning for Real' exercise in order to provide a 'bottom up' approach to determining the future of the town rather than what was being presented to us by landowners and developers.

The feeling of the meeting was that the ability of the Trust and of the Development Working Group to achieve significant progress on the three empty/underused buildings would be limited in the short term and that the efforts of the group would be better channelled into helping to deliver the 'Planning for Real' Exercise which the Trust is currently investigating. This could include reviving the Community Forum

The next meeting of the Development Working Group will be held on Thursday 14 October 2010 at 7.30 in the Braeport Centre.