

MEETING NOTE

WOLVERTON AGORA REGENERATION WORKING GROUP – MEETING 5.

14th January 2019

ATTENDEES:

Cllr Rob Middleton (Chair)	Milton Keynes Council Ward Member for Wolverton
Ed Palmieri	Milton Keynes Council
Andy Forbes	Kings Church
Marie Osborne	Future Wolverton
Taj Raja	Wolverton business owner and Central Mosque attendee
Allan Nall	Wolverton Business Association
Hilary Saunders	Wolverton and Greenleys Town Council
David Beattie	Future Wolverton
Steve Barby	Future Wolverton and Town Council Representative
Paula Lawson	Radcliffe School
Steven Norrish	Milton Keynes Christian Foundation
Ashfaq Hamid	Central Jamia Mosque
Imam Umar Manzoor	Central Jamia Mosque
Jonny Anstead	TOWN
Neil Murphy	TOWN
Angela Koch	Imagine Places

Previous Minutes

- Agreed without further comment.
- New members Paula Lawson and Steven Norrish were introduced. The attendance of members representing the Central Jamia Mosque was welcomed.

February/March stakeholder workshop

- JA introduced AK as expert curator employed by TOWN to conceive and run stakeholder workshops and, later, public consultation.
- Dates were discussed. It was agreed that half-term week, the week commencing 18th February, was to be avoided. Weekdays during office hours would be required if MKC officers are required. Fridays were also to be avoided. Action: TOWN to canvass dates in the last week of February and first week of March.

- Venues were discussed. AF confirmed King's Church would be willing to host subject to availability. RM offered space at MK Civic Offices if other options were unsuitable. MO offered the newly-opened Old School, with capacity for 100. UM offered use of the Mosque. Action: TOWN to follow up on potential venues once a date is agreed.
- Attendance was discussed. MO suggested starting from the existing stakeholder list developed for the Neighbourhood Plan consultation, duly updated for the passage of time. HS asked that Wolverton Society for Arts and Heritage be invited. AF suggested John Brush, a retired former conservation officer. AN suggested a business representative from each of the main commercial areas of the town. AK suggested an emphasis on identifying people who would offer inspiration and a different angle e.g. artists. Action: TOWN to obtain updated Neighbourhood Plan list and circulate to group for suggested additions/changes.
- PL offered potential Radcliffe School Sixth Form participation in stakeholder event. PL offered to meet with TOWN to talk about engagement with secondary and primary schools. Action: TOWN to contact PL to arrange follow-up.
- AK gave an overview of potential structure and approach to workshop, including a block exercise that would allow participants to explore options for layout and massing of development. NM mentioned that this would be based on the target minimum floor areas grounded in fixed development parameters. This was agreed to be a useful way into discussion.

Traffic and parking surveys

- NM gave a presentation describing the intended scope and method of traffic and parking surveys to inform the scheme design and planning application. He noted that the scope was well in excess of typical requirements for a project of this kind but it was important given public interest in the issues to have an unimpeachable evidence base. He explained that the method would be agreed with MKC highways officers but Working Group input would be helpful. Action: TOWN to circulate consultants' draft scoping note.
- PL asked why afternoon school run times are not included; NM to check with consultants.
- AN asked if parking beat survey should include Agora and St George's car parks; NM explained these would be fully covered by automated number-plate recognition (ANPR) survey. SB asked if strips on road would be analysed; NM explained not necessary for data.
- AF said approach looked best practice. People will be attuned to surveyors because of recent crime events. Best to avoid surveying in weeks when King Church does not have a major booking (AF to provide dates). Need to avoid Ramadan as this would skew Mosque attendance.
- AN asked is the survey would look at queuing patterns by buses on Church St and elsewhere. NM said traffic counts would differentiate by vehicle type; not deemed necessary to survey bus stops on Church St specifically as we know there is a problem with buses stacking. NM and DB had met Arriva earlier in the day: problem caused by frequency of service and slight timetable delays. HS asked if Arriva had talked about using the railway station car park to layover; NM said Arriva had not seemed aware of this idea. DB said that Arriva expressed willingness to look at situation and invited us to go back with ideas. RM invited people to consider.
- AN asked about advance works – is there something positive that can happen on traffic/parking for residents and businesses before Agora demolition? E.g Traffic Regulation Order for one-way

movement on Church St. HS agreed and said it was overdue that Wolverton received such attention. NM said no very early changes planned but can be raised with MKC.

Other business

- RM reported having received three expressions of interest to join the working group. Discussion ensued and it was agreed to invite two parties to join the group and a third to the stakeholder workshop.
- AF asked if John Brush and MKC current conservation officer could do a joint presentation at the stakeholder workshop. Discussion ensued, concluding that the potential for conflict for current officers counselled against.
- HS objected to use of Future Wolverton headed notepaper in correspondence by Future Wolverton on behalf of the Working Group. RM stated that in future any correspondence by members on behalf of the Working Group should stipulate that it is on behalf of the Working Group.

Actions

- TOWN to put forward dates for the stakeholder workshop in the last week of February and/or first week of March, and to follow up on potential venues once a date is agreed.
- TOWN to obtain updated Neighbourhood Plan stakeholder list and circulate to group for suggested additions/changes to invitees. TOWN to contact PL to follow-up on school involvement in stakeholder/public engagement.
- TOWN to circulate consultants' draft scoping note for traffic and parking surveys for comment.