

WOLVERTON AGORA REGENERATION WORKING GROUP

TUESDAY 04TH OCTOBER 2022

17:00 – 18:30

MINUTES

| Attendees | |
|----------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Cllr Robert Middleton (RM) | Milton Keynes Council |
| Ed Palmieri (EP) | Milton Keynes Council |
| Neil Murphy (NM) | TOWN |
| Guy Rochez (GR) | TOWN |
| Tia Castellano (TC) | TOWN |
| Hilary Saunders (HS) | Wolverton & Greenleys Town Council |
| Allan Nall (AN) | D W Roberts |
| Andy Forbes (AF) | Kings Church |
| Gillian Barrow Jones (GBJ) | St. George's Church |
| Stephen Norrish (SN) | Milton Keynes Christian Foundation |
| Marie Osborne (MOS) | Future Wolverton |
| Karen Parisi (KP) | C P Locks |
| Taj Raja (TR) | Smart Move |
| Francesca Vernon (FV) | St. George's Church |
| Sheila Thornton | Still Green |
| Maggie Pemberton (MP) | Wolverton Resident |
| Mick McGarth (MG) | Locality |

| Apologies | |
|----------------------|------------------------------------|
| Laura Wadsworth (LW) | Milton Keynes Council |
| Miles Walsh (MW) | St. George's Way Resident |
| Alan Sivyour (AS) | Wolverton Resident |
| Martine Harvey (MH) | Wolverton Resident |
| Kath Cook (KC) | Milton Keynes Council |
| Adrian Moss (AM) | Wolverton & Greenleys Town Council |
| David Beattie (DB) | Future Wolverton |

1. General progress update (GR)

- Demolition progress update has been pushed back and is now due to be completed in early December 2022 and construction commencing Spring 2023.
- GR/NM clarified that Employer's Requirements outline phasing with new car park and Block A (Western side) to be constructed as first phase, but exact phasing subject to Contractor's review.

- Several members raised concerns over accessibility of North/South pedestrian route and car parking during construction; RM noted he would not support temporary loss of parking to Town centre.
- North/South pedestrian route to be included in the Employers Requirements but is subject to a number of considerations (including utilities, Health & Safety etc.) that have to be reviewed by the contractors as part of construction logistics plan.
- Contractor appointment decision is undergoing public sector procurement process and a reputable contractor will be chosen but cannot be stated at this time.
- AF raised the importance of increasing need of social housing in MK.
- NM noted that there will be two affordable housing schemes which comply with council policy – a total of 26 affordable homes (mixture of flats/houses) made up of affordable and social rent which is 80% of market rent.
- Retail units - 8 shop units remain and letting plans to commence once construction starts.
- GB raised issue of layby needed for St. Georges Church hearse vehicles. NM noted challenge of incorporating with planning application for St. George's Way car park, but potential for it to be picked-up with highways works.
- Expecting a decision on planning permission for SGW car park in roughly 2 weeks.
- GB to look into consent for a gateway access on the wall of SGW car park. NM to follow up with GB.

2. Community Improvement District bid

a. Wider context for CIDs and shared learning with other towns (Mick McGrath, Locality)

- Locality's involvement in the CID -
 - General/specialist support
 - act as a sounding board
 - Exploring solutions to problems
- Discussion around 'what is our vision for Wolverton town centre?'
 - Retaining, showcasing and educating on Heritage.
 - Incorporate old within the new development - important to be forward looking as well as celebration of heritage; Wolverton as a railway town; conservation and preservation – telling a story.
 - Social aspect of Wolverton – strong community with all facilities you need.
 - Celebrating 3 distinctive high streets that work well together.
 - Looking at ideas around the construction phase, and influx of workers, and how to utilise this to help local businesses economically.
 - Understanding why Wolverton works and how we make it work at all levels.
 - Public arts steering group and CID synergy.
 - Looking at and prioritising the re-use of historic buildings.

b. Wolverton CID progress report (MO)

- MO presented CID progress report. MO to share ppt presentation with group.
- Marketing/branding of Wolverton to be developed.
- Ownership of property – ideas around 'curating the high street'
- FW have had meetings with other chosen CID towns – emphasis on 'how we work together'.

- CID town meeting in Sheffield – to get in contact with MO if interested in attending.

c. Facilitated discussion and next steps (MO/MM)

- Carried forward.

3. Parking update (GR/NM)

- Issues around parking management raised earlier in meeting.
- TOWN to feedback from council's response at next working group meeting
- Emphasis from group that phasing must be done in a way that public space/parking is always available whilst construction happens.

4. Bus stop (TC/GR)

- TC/GR to circulate presentation slides and for group to send comments by 10/10.

5. Future meeting and communications (RM/GR)

- To be emailed.

6. AOB

- Issues of pollution and construction workers vehicles – this will be covered in construction management plan and may include workers arriving in minibuses/encouraging public transport instead of individual cars.