

# WOLVERTON AGORA REGENERATION WORKING GROUP

Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> April 2024

17:00 – 18:00

Online

<b>Attendees</b>	
Cllr Robert Middleton (RM)	Milton Keynes City Council
Neil Murphy (NM)	TOWN
Tia Castellano (TC)	TOWN
Kath Cook (KC)	Milton Keynes City Council
Victoria Bode (VB)	Milton Keynes City Council
David Beattie (DB)	Future Wolverton
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
Marie Osborne (MO)	Future Wolverton
Adrian Moss (AM)	Wolverton & Greenleys Town Council
Laura Greering (LG)	Milton Keynes Christian Foundation
Vivien Shah (VS)	Still Green

<b>Apologies</b>	
Guy Rochez (GR)	TOWN
Alan Sivyour (AS)	Wolverton Resident
Martine Harvey (MH)	Wolverton Resident
Karen Parisi (KP)	C P Locks
Taj Raja (TR)	Smart Move
Badar Bakhat (BB)	Wolverton Resident
Maggie Pemberton (MP)	Wolverton Resident

## MEETING MINUTES

### 1. General progress update (GR/NM)

- NM noted contractor market challenges which has brought a delay in programme dates. However, the project has now come to a position with Wilmot Dixon that can allow us to progress.
- PCSA is now in progress to sign the contract and start the build.
- As it progresses TOWN/MKCC can provide more updates and answer more practical logistics e.g site entrance, etc.
- KC noted Intention to have activity on site in Autumn to do groundworks but not construction yet.

- More detailed programme to be firmed up.
- RM raised the set of elections coming up and to take political climate into consideration.
- Also noted the Likelihood that Pete Marland will continue to be in position. Labour likely to continue into administration but should not have much impact.
- AN questioned what the preliminary date for St.George's Way car park to be open
- NM noted no date confirmed at present and will share once detailed programme is complete.
- AN questioned whether the chair of committee will change?
- RM noted Lauren Townsend is the current chair and is aware of the group and will chair the next meeting. Also noted that she lives in Wolverton and understands importance of the project.
- RM to continue attending meetings.

## **2. Church street proposals (VB)**

- VB noted that the transport team and AECOM have listened to comments that arose from the previous consultation and have thus attempted to keep as much parking.
- Overall, the main changes were the retainment of car parking spaces, removal of flexible space and pedestrian crossing. Raised table and crossings remain at each end at the roundabouts as per the previous design proposal. Proposal for more parking in front of St. George's Church subject to land ownership confirmation.
- VB shared previous design plan and latest design changes which will be shared with the group and wider public.
- AN, GB, MO and AF expressed that they agree with all design changes.
- NM noted that the new iteration reflects the original philosophy intended for Church Street and looks like it will work with Wolverton and highways authority.
- GB raised that she is certain that the land in front of St. George's Church which is being proposed for parking will not be in the registry. GB referred to issue of land at Buckingham Street which will likely be a similar case with no ownership being identified.
- MO raised issues of buses on Church Street, continual problem with air/noise pollution. MO urges MKCC to continue the conversation with the bus companies to address this issue.
- There needs to be a more manageable amount of buses as this is also a danger to pedestrians/cyclists.
- AM raised conversations with Aviva bus company on buses laying over at the station instead but no progress yet.
- Need for joining up of conversations regarding the bus issues.
- DB noted that he has continuously emailed bus companies noting bus numbers that have been idling but no progress has been made.
- DB also noted that it is the quality of buses that are also an issue.
- VB agreed to chase up on this.
- DB happy to help and engage VB if needed.
- AF raised that electric buses were previously introduced and made a big difference and also raised the law of no idling allowed.

- Electric charging point installed on Church Street is not being used.
- NM noted that it was found that the electric chargers were not as efficient in charging.
- **ACTION:** RM noted that he was happy to take away this issue and raise to the council.
- RM also noted that due to politics there is a difference around the Green agenda. Metro Mayors who have the power to regulate local markets and have made a difference in Manchester.
- RM raised the press release issued by the council on commitment to electric buses and explained the background to the aborted rollout of electric buses in MK & asked members to look at the recent press from Jenny Wilson Marklew.
- Overall, desire that these buses become electric at a future date. Desire that these buses idle at Wolverton train station rather than Church street.
- MO questioned whether the design proposal will this go back out to the general public.
- NM noted that we are not expecting another round of formal consultation as the Working group was used as a sounding board.
- **ACTION:** AM to speak to Andrea on progress updates on Aviva railway bus stop conversation.
- AN suggested to share design proposals and project update/next steps in local newsletter.
- GB noted deadline for newsletter is the first week of May for June/July issue.
- **ACTION:** TOWN to write up design proposal and project update to be put out in the next Wolverton newsletter.

#### **AOB**

- NM to come back to group on date of next meeting. To aim before school holidays but may be useful afterwards for more detail.
- RM noted to pencil in for July to voice any updates.
- HS questioned whether there were any plans for the Gable site and if there is any funding to progress something there.
- RM noted unlikely to happen under current political climate. At the moment council commitment is to build out Lakes Estate regeneration.
- **ACTION:** RM noted that the Gable site is a strategic site and intervention is needed for its future. Lauren Townsend to highlight to Emily Darlington, as cabinet member for HRA, that the stakeholder group is keen to learn more about (any) plans for the Gables site.
- AM noted that HS will be standing down at next council election.
- AF shared story of financial issues with Church and then recently generously receiving a large donation to finish works for the Church.