

WOLVERTON AGORA REGENERATION WORKING GROUP

Wednesday 9th October 2024

17:00 – 18:30

Town Hall, Creed St, Wolverton, Milton Keynes MK12 5LY

MINUTES

Attendees	
Cllr Lauren Townsend (LT)	Milton Keynes City Council
Cllr Robert Middleton (RM)	Milton Keynes City Council
Neil Murphy (NM)	TOWN
Claudia Evans (CE)	TOWN
Tia Castellano (TC)	TOWN
Kath Cook (KC)	Milton Keynes City Council
David Beattie (DB)	Future Wolverton
David Bennett (DBn)	Wolverton & Greenleys Town Council
Allan Nall (AN)	D W Roberts
Andy Forbes (AF)	Kings Church
Gillian Barrow Jones (GB)	St. George's Church
Marie Osborne (MO)	Future Wolverton
Laura Greering (LG)	Milton Keynes Christian Foundation
Maggie Pemberton (MP)	Wolverton Resident
Karen Parisi (KP)	C P Locks
Taj Raja (TR)	Smart Move
Sheila Thornton (ST)	Still Green Resident
Margaret Newens (MN)	Still Green Resident
Jacky Hart (JH)	Still Green Resident

Apologies	
Guy Rochez (GR)	TOWN
Alan Sivyour (AS)	Wolverton Resident
Martine Harvey (MH)	Wolverton Resident
Badar Bakhat (BB)	Wolverton Resident
Adrian Moss (AM)	Wolverton & Greenleys Town Council
Laura Greering (LG)	Milton Keynes Christian Foundation
Vivien Shah (VS)	Still Green

- 1. Introductions for Cllr Townsend as new Chair.**
- 2. Progress update (TOWN) – PowerPoint to be circulated.**
 - a. Technical design development**

- AN queried the set-up of the new proposed surface water drainage design.
- NM responded that it would use a Crating system within the ground that releases water slowly. NM noted that this is already included in the scheme. There will also be landscaping changes (swales).

b. Programme

- NM shared a provisional construction phasing/access plan.
- Contractor is aiming to keep North-South access accessible for as long as possible.
- AN queried the duration of the site compound to ensure parking is available throughout.
- Site compound will come first and then be moved into phase 3 area. Length of time is still unknown.
- Last stage will have the site compound as small as possible but not confirmed yet.
- Aim to keep compound in phase 3 footprint to minimise disruption.

3. Member's questions and discussion

- GB queried access for oil delivery along site boundary for the church.
- **ACTION:** KC noted that this has been raised with Wilmot Dixon and will follow up.
- AN raised the topic of St. George's Church layby and what update there is on this.
- KC noted that this is a separate scheme which is being managed by the Highways Authority and will be carried out after the scheme is complete.
- KP raised a concern around large vehicle access via Radcliffe Street in response to the phasing plan. KP views this as a problem due to the vehicles parking on double yellow lines which should be considered.
- AF questioned what the overall cost of the project is to date.
- NM responded that this is an ongoing process and until all packages are priced and scrutinised, this will be unknown.
- AF noted that the Business case should include the benefits of Wolverton being a railway town.
- NM responded that independent advisors are working on this which will consider; impact on well-being and community spend, etc.
- KP raised the topic of contractors parking.
- NM noted that the Construction Traffic Management Plan is to be confirmed.
- KC confirmed the tree works taking place over the next two weekends in the car park in response to GB.
- DB raised a concern with the temporary bus stop which was shown on the phasing plan. He questioned whether there has been any contact with Arriva and how it will be managed.
- NM noted that we need a clear proposition to contact Arriva and that there is still more work to be done on logistics. Also, a Temporary Traffic Regulation Order will have to be submitted. **ACTION:** TOWN to explore logistics on temporary bus stop on Church Street.

- AF raised the topic of a recently vacant homeless centre which may be of interest in developing this into a site office, etc.
- ST queried the programme change, how this will be communicated and if there is a comms plan.
- NM responded that the PowerPoint slides will be posted on the website and newsletter without the phasing plan.
- An update will be given on the council's decision on funding.
- MO noted that people want to see something happening and that reassurance is needed.
- The group expressed that there is uncertainty on what to communicate about the project to the wider community.
- An idea was suggested to show project achievements to date on a poster.
- KC noted that the council is currently under a spending freeze.
- MO responded that she and others would like permission to carry out comms/engagement themselves.
- AF noted the availability of buildings with OHB.
- **ACTION:** TOWN/MKCC to liaise and produce a statement for the latest project updates in which the Working group can use and distribute.

4. Members' updates

- MO noted last street market of the year taking place this week.
- Also, an evaluation of the CID project is in progress. Looking at the future of the shop on the square and what can be done going forward.
- GB noted that the Heritage Open day was successful.
- ST noted that 23 out of 25 apartments have been reserved in block C and some are moving from various places across the country/world.
- AF noted Kings Church building has completed stage 3 and scaffolding will now be moved to town hall side.
- Town council community forum on 17th October – opportunity to feedback any concerns from the local community.
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5. Review of Terms of Reference

- **ACTION:** TOWN to circulate ToR and Working Group to share any proposed changes.
- AF noted much work has been done as a critical friend including a more positive role.
- RM raised that we have not managed to recruit an Educational Rep. To be looked into either to replace or other.
- Comms item needed as a standing item in 2025 once construction starts.
- MN noted to add Still green.
- A point was raised to engage with residents from SGW to join the group.
- Discussion around engagement online vs in person and implications on attendance.
- The group highlighted outstanding performance of RM in chairing the group over the past few years and appreciate his commitment to the group.

6. Future meeting and communications

- Suggested meeting in early 2025.

7. AOB

- AN noted to create space to ensure bus plans works with the new development.
- LT responded that the Highways team will contact Arriva. There will be an agreement before the Traffic Management Plan is signed off.