

# ANGUS COUNCIL

MINUTE of MEETING of the **KIRRIEMUIR CONSERVATION AREA REGENERATION SCHEME (CARS) STEERING GROUP** held in the Lesser Hall, Kirriemuir on Tuesday 17 June 2014 at 9.15 am.

**Present:** Councillors IAIN GAUL, JEANETTE GAUL and RONNIE PROCTOR.

**Non Councillor Members of the Group:** DEREK MARSHALL and CATHY STEPHENSON.

**Officers in Attendance:** ROY MADDEN (Natural and Built Environment Manager), KAREN WEST (CARS Project Officer), GRAEME HODGE (Communities Officer), MIKE LOFTUS, (Landscape Services Officer), SARAH FORSYTH (Committee Officer) and LAURA STEWART (Clerical Officer).

## 1. CHAIR OF THE MEETING

In accordance with the constitution of the Steering Group, the chair rotating between elected members, Councillor Ronnie Proctor chaired the meeting.

## 2. APOLOGIES

An apology for absence was intimated on behalf of Paul Fretwell (Non Councillor Member of the Group).

## 3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Derek Marshall declared an interest in item 6 as a Trustee of the Bridges building, 42-44 Bank Street, Kirriemuir. He indicated that he would not take part in any discussion and voting and would leave the meeting during consideration of the item.

Councillor Proctor declared an interest in item 7 as the proposed enhancements had been discussed at a recent meeting of Kirriemuir Heritage Trust. He indicated that as this had been a general discussion, he would take part in any discussion and voting.

Councillors Iain Gaul and Jeanette Gaul both declared an interest in item 7 as they had received correspondence in relation to the consultation. They both indicated that they would take part in any discussion and voting.

## 4. MINUTE OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minute of meeting of the Steering Group of 29 April 2014 was submitted and approved as a correct record.

## 5. REQUEST FOR A DEPUTATION

The Steering Group agreed to hear a deputation from Mr Graeme Galloway, DD8 Music in relation to the Kirriemuir Square Consultation Report, and in particular the siting of the Bon Scott statue.

On behalf of DD8 Music, Mr Galloway addressed the meeting. He advised the Steering Group of his concerns with regards to the results of the consultation following a number of approaches he had received from people within the town. He did not feel that the survey results reflected the views of the people of Kirriemuir, however, DD8 Music would listen to the views of the community in relation to the siting of the statue. It was DD8 Music's intention to now carry out their own consultation and to engage with the community to ensure that the best possible site for the statue was chosen.

Mr Galloway also highlighted the potential economic benefits to Kirriemuir and the value of music tourism heritage in a number of areas, and reminded the Steering Group of the huge success of Bon Fest.

Following a number of questions, Mr Galloway was thanked for his attendance.

## 6. CARS PROJECT OFFICER'S REPORT

With reference to Article 5 of the minute of previous meeting, there was submitted a Report by the CARS Project Officer summarising progress in relation to the following priority projects:-

- **Glengate Hall**

The Project Officer advised that the external works were nearing completion and that the roofing works and installation of windows were also largely complete. Remedial stonework repairs were also nearing completion and it was therefore anticipated that the scaffolding would be removed by the end of June. Internally, three of the units had been completed with the remainder expected to be completed by the end of June also.

The original nesting site on the north elevation of the building had been re-opened for the returning swifts and a new box would be erected under the eaves at the rear of the building.

The Steering Group noted that costs were still awaited from the Council's Lighting Manager for the installation of two heritage style lanterns onto the building and the Steering Group instructed the Project Officer to remind the Lighting Manager that costs were required prior to the next meeting.

- **1-3 Roods**

The Project Officer advised that as planning and listed building consent had been granted, tender documents were now being prepared. A grant application was expected to be submitted towards the end of August.

- **Warehouse/Store, Ogilvy's Close**

The Steering Group noted that the property was expected to be placed for sale on the market over the coming days. It was hoped that the new owner would apply for funding.

- **Airlie Arms Hotel, St Malcolm's Wynd**

No progress to report.

*Having declared an interest at Article 3 above, Derek Marshall left the meeting during consideration of the following item.*

- **Small Grants Scheme**

It was noted that no new grant applications had been submitted for consideration at this meeting. However, the Project Officer raised an issue in relation to Bridges Coffee Shop, Bank Street, Kirriemuir.

In terms of the project, scaffolding had been erected and the contractor had had an opportunity to inspect the condition of the stonework on the building more closely. The Steering Group were advised that due to its structural condition, the chimney on the south gable of the building had had to be partially truncated for health and safety reasons. Additional stabilising works also required to be carried out to the remaining chimney on the Bank Street/Kirkwynd elevations. Therefore, the original specification of works had been revised to take account of the additional works necessary to all three chimneys.

Thereafter, the Steering Group noted that an error in the original grant calculation had been made. Having heard from the Project Manager, the Steering Group agreed to increase the grant awarded to the Strathmore Christian Fellowship to £19,426.

*Mr Marshall returned to the meeting at this point.*

The Steering Group also noted the following:-

- Jeweller's Workshop - it was expected that the new shop front would be in place by the end of June.
- Joshua Plumtree – works to be carried out in July.
- Bookworms – final paint colour of door had been agreed.

Thereafter, the Project Officer intimated that a local professional agent had taken the opportunity to issue flyers/leaflets to properties within the conservation area advertising their services which had resulted in a number of enquiries from individuals regarding repair works. It was noted that a number of the enquiries were from outwith the priority town centre area and as a result, any applications for grant funding would be recommended for deferral. The Project Officer would continue to monitor the number of potential grant applications over the coming weeks and thereafter, assess whether the priority area for the Small Grants Scheme should be widened.

Following discussion regarding the Small Grants Scheme, the Steering Group agreed:-

- (i) that a report on the widening of the priority area be presented to the next meeting; and
- (ii) that as there was no progress with the Airlie Arms, that consideration now be given to amending the priority projects and that the Project Officer be instructed to contact Historic Scotland in this regard, with a view to reallocating the funding to the Small Grants Scheme and Public Realm Works, with an options report to be submitted to the next meeting.

Thereafter, the Steering Group noted the terms of the Report and the updated position.

## **7. KIRRIEMUIR SQUARE CONSULTATION REPORT**

There was submitted an updated Report which detailed the results of the consultation exercise on the Kirriemuir Square Enhancements.

The Steering Group noted that the updated Report included a further 42 responses from the 'Have Your Say' website which had been omitted.

Mr Mike Loftus, Landscape Services Officer, gave an overview of the results, when it was noted that 29% of responses were in favour of the proposals, 22% were against and 49% were neutral. Comments had also been made on the individual aspects of the proposals which were discussed at length.

The Steering Group agreed that whilst the results of the consultation exercise were informative, it was too early to come to any definitive decisions on the final concept at this time. It was also agreed that Mr Loftus review the design based on the comments, having considered the following:-

- possible use of black stainless steel
- benches that included planters
- colour of the granite
- provision of a noticeboard
- options for the bus shelter at an alternative location further along the street.

The Steering Group also agreed that a further update on the enhancements be presented to the next meeting of the Group.

## **8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The Steering Group noted that the next meeting would be held on Tuesday 19 August 2014 at 9.15 am in the Lesser Hall, Kirriemuir.

Following conclusion of the meeting, the Steering Group paid tribute to Roy Madden who was retiring from the Council and who was today attending his final meeting of the Steering Group. The Directors thanked Roy for his contribution to the work of the Group and wished him well in his retirement.

The Steering Group also noted that this was the last meeting that Sarah Forsyth would be attending prior to her going on maternity leave and offered their best wishes for the happy event.