

ANGUS COUNCIL

MINUTE of MEETING of the **KIRRIEMUIR CONSERVATION AREA REGENERATION SCHEME (CARS) STEERING GROUP** held in the Upper Gallery, Gateway to the Glens Museum, 32 High Street, Kirriemuir on Tuesday 26 May 2015 at 9.15 am.

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

Non Councillor Members of the Group: PAUL FRETWELL.

Officers in Attendance: KIRSTY MACARI (Senior Planning Officer - Environment and Development Plan), KAREN WEST (CARS Project Officer) and LAURA STEWART (Committee Assistant).

1. CHAIR OF THE MEETING

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

2. APOLOGIES

An apology for absence was intimated on behalf of Derek Marshall (non Councillor member of the Group).

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Ronnie Proctor declared an interest in item 6 as the proposed enhancements had been discussed at a meeting of the Kirriemuir Heritage Trust. He indicated that, as this had been a general discussion, he would take part in any discussion and voting.

4. DEPUTATIONS

The Steering Group agreed to hear deputations from Irene Robertson, a member of the Kirriemuir Den Regeneration Group and Bruce Walker, Stone Sculptor, Kirriemuir in relation to the Kirriemuir Square enhancements which had been discussed at previous meetings of the Steering Group.

On behalf of the Kirriemuir Den Regeneration Group, Ms Robertson addressed the meeting. She advised the Steering Group that she was a volunteer who, along with other local residents in Kirriemuir, had a keen interest in the proposed enhancements to the Square, in particular the planters which were to be located within the Square, and provided the Steering Group with what, in her opinion, would work well within the Square.

Thereafter, Mr Walker addressed the meeting. He advised the Steering Group that he had a wealth of knowledge in relation to stone carving as he had been working in this profession for a considerable number of years and provided members of the Steering Group with his professional opinion on the different types of granite and engraving that could potentially be used within the Square.

Following a number of questions, the Steering Group thanked both Ms Robertson and Mr Walker for their attendance.

5. MINUTE OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minute of meeting of the Steering Group of 28 April 2015 was submitted and approved as a correct record.

6. MATTERS ARISING

With reference to Article 5 of the minute of previous meeting, Mike Loftus, Landscape Services Officer, presented the Steering Group with a number of options for various design aspects in relation to the proposed Square enhancements.

Following a comprehensive discussion, and taking into account the earlier views of Ms Robertson and Mr Walker, the Steering Group agreed:-

- (i) the final tree guard design as per the template circulated at the meeting;
- (ii) the final litter bin model which would be located within the Square as per the designs circulated at the meeting;
- (iii) the final design of the bollards which would be located within the Square as per the designs circulated at the meeting;
- (iv) that, following a detailed inspection of the granite stone available at the meeting, hand carved stone should be used for the Square enhancements;
- (v) that the decision to use hand carved stone should be conveyed to the Procurement team to ensure this information was incorporated into the specification documents for this particular tender;
- (vi) that further costings on the hand carved stone work should be submitted to a further meeting of the Steering Group for information;
- (vii) that further colour samples of granite should be submitted to the next meeting of the Steering Group for consideration;
- (viii) that the wording for the timeline feature within the Square should be a 'Kirriemuir weavers song' and further options for this should be submitted to a future meeting of the Steering Group for consideration; and
- (ix) the location of and type of planters to be used for the Square enhancements as per the designs which were circulated at the meeting.

7. 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:-

- **1-7 Roods**

The Project Officer advised the Steering Group that scaffolding had now been erected on site and external works had commenced. She indicated that a CARS banner and Historic Scotland signboard would also be erected on the scaffolding in due course.

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

The Steering Group noted that the agent for this project remained in discussion with the Planning Officers over proposals to build at the rear of Hooks in Bank Street but, to date, there had been no progress with any redevelopment plans for this priority project.

Following discussion, the Project Officer advised that confirmation from Historic Scotland on what elements of this project could be grant eligible would be sought and the findings submitted to the next meeting of the Steering Group for consideration.

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

The Project Officer advised the Steering Group that, further to the grant offer of £102,000 being sent to the applicant, a letter had since been received which indicated that, in the applicant's opinion, there were too many conditions and demands within the grant offer to allow the applicant to accept the grant awarded to them for the Airlie Arms and accordingly had made the decision to decline the monies awarded to them.

Following a detailed discussion, the Steering Group agreed to note the position.

- **Small Grants Scheme**

There was submitted and noted a list of potential small grant applications, together with a large scale map of the conservation area within the town centre which highlighted the location of these applications as well as displaying those premises where grants had previously been awarded by the Steering Group.

Following discussion, and having heard from the Project Officer in relation to potential applications, the Steering Group agreed:-

- (i) to instruct the Project Officer to ensure the information regarding the progression of the small grant awards within the conservation area would be made available to various local community groups; and
- (ii) that the information regarding the progression of the small grant awards within the conservation area would be made available in the Kirriemuir ACCESS office and library.

8. CARS SMALL GRANTS SCHEME – OPTIONS REPORT

With reference to Article 5 of the minute of previous meeting, there was submitted a Report by the Senior Planning Officer (Environment and Development Plan) in relation to the small grants scheme budget.

The Report indicated that the recent surge in applications had resulted in an increased pressure on the current budget available and a number of options for the Steering Group to consider regarding future grant allocations and funding were detailed within the Report.

Following discussion, and having heard from a number of members of the Steering Group, the Steering Group agreed:-

- (i) to note the contents of the Report;
- (ii) to transfer the previously allocated funds of £102,000 for the Airlie Arms project to the small grants fund to produce a grant budget of £192,000.67; and
- (iii) that the grant award percentage for any new applications for roof works would be reduced from 85% to 50%.

9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The Steering Group noted that the next meeting would be held on Tuesday 30 June 2015 at 9.15 am in the Upper Gallery, Gateway to the Glens Museum, 32 High Street, Kirriemuir.