

Section 1

Introduction & Approach

The Forfar Town Centre Charrette took the form of Future Forfar: A series of creative conversations, activities and events to explore the future of Forfar Town Centre.

Pidgin Perfect led the approach to the Forfar Charrette alongside project partners Nick Wright Planning and Willie Miller Urban Design and supported by consultants, Professor Leigh Sparks of Stirling University, Arts Curator Patricia Fleming and Architect Matt Bridgestock of John Gilbert Architects.

An intensive pre-charrette phase of public engagement, information gathering and preparation took place from the start of October 2015 through to the launch of the three day charrette on Sunday 22nd November in the Future Forfar Cafe at 3 East High Street, featuring live performances from DD8 music amidst an exhibition of Forfar's history and heritage created by the organisation Pitstop. The charrette concluded with presentations on visions for Future Forfar in the Future Forfar Workshop in the Drama Society space at 132 East High Street.

The project team's approach to the Forfar Charrette was to:

- Be as open and inclusive as possible
- Engage people creatively
- Not prejudge the issues or outcomes
- Conduct a thorough professional and transparent process

It was with these principles in mind that we approached the imperatives for the project as laid out by Angus Council to:

- Understand how the local community defines the town centre

- Generate a long term vision for the town centre that is ambitious, and shared by the community.
- Highlight the short term quick wins that will sustain momentum towards the long term vision.
- Feed into future decisions on future budgets and service delivery
- Develop a sense of shared responsibility / co-production for delivery of town centre regeneration amongst local businesses, community groups, institutions, residents and the Council/CPP partners as well as with the everyday public and 'quieter voices'.
- Consider how the town feels to live in, thinking about how the day to day experience can be improved through attention to simple things like quality of the street furnishings and pavements.
- Generate conversations and energy around the town centre and future change.
- Gear up to move quickly from charrette outputs to delivery of an action plan.