

MEETING NOTE

WOLVERTON AGORA REGENERATION WORKING GROUP – MEETING 9.

3rd June 2019

ATTENDEES:

Cllr Rob Middleton (Chair)	Milton Keynes Council Ward Member for Wolverton
Ed Palmieri	Milton Keynes Council
Gill Barrow Jones	St Georges Church
Andy Forbes	Kings Church (apols)
Marie Osborne	Future Wolverton
Allan Nall	Wolverton Business Association (apols)
Hilary Saunders	Wolverton and Greenleys Town Council
David Beattie	Future Wolverton
Paula Lawson	Radcliffe School
Dave Boatwright	The New Queen Victoria
Rosaline Frost	The New Queen Victoria
Karen Parisi	CP Locks
Joan Foster	Maisies
Steve Barbie	Future Wolverton and Town Council Representative
Steven Norrish	Milton Keynes Christian Foundation
Taj Raja	Wolverton business owner and Central Mosque attendee (apols)
Neil Murphy	TOWN
Mike Bodkin	TOWN

Note of last meeting

- The draft notes were agreed as an accurate record of the meeting

Project Update

- Ed Palmieri noted that the Council has entered into its Forward Plan a decision that is scheduled to be taken in July on the introduction of a one-way system and revisions to parking provision on Council-owned and highway land in the town centre.
- Rob Middleton encouraged members of the Group to respond positively to the forthcoming decision, sending him emails or letters of support and to provide remarks and comments

on the future strategy for parking in the town centre. This could include a permit scheme for businesses for example.

- Similarly, Rob encouraged members of the Group and the public in general to attend the meeting when the decision is made to show support for the Council's proposals including funding activities in Wolverton Town Centre.
- Members of the Group asked to be kept informed of the date of the meeting when the decision will be made.
- TOWN noted that the [Love Wolverton website](#) is now live and hosts a lot of information about the emerging scheme and background to the proposals.
- A public review of the emerging design will be held at Kings Church at the following times:
 - Thursday 13th June - 16.00-20.00
 - Friday 14th - 11.00-19.00
 - Saturday 15th - 10.00-15.00
- TOWN noted that the expected submission date for the planning application remains late July 2019 and a more accurate timescale will become clear after the Public Review.
- It was suggested that the Review should be publicised by putting posters up around the Agora. TOWN agreed to take this forward.

Presentation on parking provision (Neil Murphy)

- Neil Murphy gave a detailed presentation on use of existing town centre parking and emerging proposals from the team and the Council. The presentation slides are available [here](#).
- As a starting point, TOWN and the Design Team recognise that Wolverton is a compact place and the site one of the most accessible in the town. The development will seek to build on these principles and to foster sustainable transport patterns with the avoidance of the use of the car for short and/or unnecessary trips.
- Neil relayed the results of the town centre parking study undertaken by Civic Engineers. This had been undertaken over the course of a full week incorporating 24/7 Automatic Number Plate Recognition of the car park and parking 'beat surveys' on foot.
- The study showed that – with the exception of the period immediately around Friday prayers at the Central Jamia Mosque – the Agora car park typically operates at a maximum occupation of around 50-60%, based on a provision of 120 spaces.
- Following earlier work on opportunities for increasing parking provision in the town centre (as opposed to on site), the Council was taking forward the proposed increase of parking spaces accompanied by other measures to regulate parking including the following:
 - Demolition of existing garage block on St Georges Way and provision of dedicated parking for residents of St George's Way;

- Improvements to existing St George's Way car park to create a car park for shoppers and other visitors to the town centre;
 - Provision of parallel parking along St George's Way;
 - On street parking improvements in the vicinity of the site including to Church Street;
 - The provision of on-street parking for people visiting the town centre shops on the new Radcliffe Street; and
 - Public realm improvements to The Square could also potentially yield a number of additional spaces.
- In total these changes have the potential to slightly increase the availability of town centre parking spaces (currently in the form of on-street + the Agora car park). However there could be increased regulation in the form of a parking permit scheme and parking charges where it is currently considered to be free. In theory the Agora car park is restricted to two hours free parking for users of the Agora, but in practice it is regarded as a free resource for the town centre.
 - Neil was asked why echelon (chevron) parking had been abandoned in Church Street. Neil suggested that it was a combination of the limited number of spaces that would be created together with the potential for conflict between buses, pedestrians crossing the road and cars reversing out of the parking spaces. He accepted that the rationale could have been explained to the Group beforehand.
 - In terms of parking provision for the new residential units, the current proposal was to provide 123 spaces for the c104 units. 86 of these would be allocated for residents with 35 in the basement (podium) car park under Block A.
 - Residents of larger (3/4 bedroom) houses would be able to bid for one of the remaining permits and those without a vehicle who were allocated a space could lease the space back to the Management Company. Potentially demand for more spaces could be reduced through the provision of 1-2 car club spaces in the scheme.
 - Dual usage of spaces on the New Radcliffe Street would be introduced whereby on street spaces would be available for retail users during the day and restricted to residents only outside of retail hours via permit scheme.
 - In tandem with the introduction of one-way (westbound) traffic along Church St between Creed St and the New Radcliffe Street, the following measures are proposed for that stretch of Church St:
 - The replacement of the existing single bus lay-by with one accommodating three buses and a new shelter at the western end with real-time journey information provided;
 - The relocation of the existing electric bus charging plate westwards; and
 - New pedestrian crossing points across Church St and improvements to the public realm.
 - In discussion about the potential risks to air quality in relation to idling buses on Church Street Neil confirmed that Arriva has instructed its drivers not to leave engines idling whilst

laying over on Church St. Mike Bodkin confirmed that an air quality assessment would accompany the planning application and he had specifically asked for it to address this issue of the interaction between buses and the new residential properties.

Any Other Business

- In response to a question regarding the provision of public conveniences, Rob Middleton suggested that this issue should be addressed outside of the working group. If businesses, residents and visitors felt strongly that this type of facility should be provided in the town centre they should contact him direct.
- The blocking of the alleyway to the west of the Agora between Church St and Buckingham St was raised. Neil Murphy stated that the hoarding had been erected to address the risk of people climbing onto the roof, and that this had been done to satisfy Love Wolverton's public liability insurers.
- It was agreed to convene a further meeting of the Working Group following the Public Review and prior to the submission of the planning application for the redevelopment of the Agora.

Actions

- Ed Palmieri to inform members of the Group of the date of the decision on the introduction of a one-way system in the town centre and the town centre parking strategy including proposals for St George's Way and its car parks.
- TOWN will publicise the Public Review by putting up a few posters around the site.
- Further meeting to be arranged following the Public Review and prior to the submission of the planning application.

MB TOWN

June 2019