

Sean Watters
Portobello Community Council
seanwatters@hotmail.com

Wednesday 7 June 2017

Ref: PR14934

Decision Notice - Participation Request 14934 – Pitz sale, Portobello

Dear Mr Watters,

Following on from review of the participation request received on 25 April 2017, I can confirm that the request has been agreed by the City of Edinburgh Council.

As discussed at the meeting on 24 May 2017, Portobello Community Council requests to be involved in the sale of the land beyond the participation they would have had through the Planning process. This includes having an opportunity to influence the use of the land and final sale decision before a preferred bidder is chosen.

As you are aware the closing date for bids has passed, and standard practice would be that the bids are assessed by the Council and a preferred bidder is selected. However, in response to your request, there is an opportunity to develop an Outcome Improvement Process which would allow further engagement with the community to inform a second stage of applications before the preferred bidder is chosen.

The proposed Outcome Improvement Process is set out as follows:

- all bids will be assessed by the Council in the first instance to ensure that they meet the guidance that was issued as part of the sale process;
- a community wide online survey will be undertaken to better understand what stakeholders feel the land should be used for in the context of the bids and the wider community area; and
- a series of smaller targeted focus groups will be delivered with representation from communities of interest across a range of demographics, having a focussed discussion around the uses proposed by the current bids.

Kirsty-Louise Campbell | Senior Manager – Strategy and Insight | Business Centre 2.1, Level 2,
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The survey and focus group questions would be designed collaboratively with the Community Council and the Council's Strategy and Insight Service. The Council would also provide support to recruit focus group participants locally, facilitate the focus groups and gather the findings from the focus groups and the survey.

The findings from all of this engagement will then be fed back to the bidders and they will be asked to respond to a second stage application reflecting how the aspirations of the community through this process will be met by their proposals.

The revised bids will be subject to an evaluation session led by the Council and attended by representative(s) from the Community Council to have an input into the selection of the preferred bidder. Council officers will then select the preferred bidder and present that to a Council Committee for approval, with a summary of the community council's participation in this process and what the outcome was as a result of this additional engagement.

As per the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015, the Community Council has 28 days to propose any changes to the above Outcome Improvement Process. As you may wish to discuss the proposal with the wider community council members an indicative timeline is set out as follows:

Wednesday 7 June 2017 – proposal received by the community council

Thursday 6 July 2017 – final day for proposed changes to the process

Mid July – online survey to be issued for 4 week response time

Mid – end July – focus groups to be delivered

Mid – end August – second closing date announced

End September – second closing date for bids

Beginning October – analysis of bids

Mid – end October – evaluation session with community council representatives

November - December – Committee report seeking approval of preferred bidder

Once the Outcome Improvement Process is agreed by the community council and the Council, the time line can be populated with further detail and actions.

I hope that this proposal accurately reflects the discussion that took place. The community council should now review this process and propose any changes by **Thursday 6 July 2017** to participation.requests@edinburgh.gov.uk

If you have any additional questions please get in touch with Saty Kaur (saty.kaur@edinburgh.gov.uk), 0131 469 5281.

Yours sincerely,

Kirsty-Louise Campbell

Senior Manager, Strategy and Insight