

Miranda Hurst
Portobello Community Council
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Monday 14 August 2017

Ref: PR14934

John Stewart
Portobello Amenity Society
admin@pasportobello.co.uk

Decision Notice Update - Participation Request 14934 – Pitz sale, Portobello

Dear Ms Hurst and Mr Stewart,

Thank you for the responses from Portobello Community Council (dated 25 July 2017) and Portobello Amenity Society (dated 4 August 2017).

The detail of the responses has been discussed with the Council's Planning, Corporate Property and Insight and Engagement Services and the outcomes amalgamated to form the following update to the process:

Online survey

An online survey will be undertaken, led by the Council's Insight and Engagement Team, alongside the focus groups. Responses will be invited community wide, and the feedback from the survey will be included in the community engagement report issued to the developers in advance of the second closing date.

Focus groups

The focus group recruitment will include both the community council boundary as well as a 400m radius from the site. The addition of the 400m radius allows us to include residents from surrounding areas that may be impacted by a new development i.e. residents of Wakefield Avenue. Two recruitment points have been identified – on the Promenade and outside the Town Hall.

Michele Mulvaney | Community Engagement and Partnership Development Manager – Local Community Planning | Strategy and Insight | Business Centre 2.1, Level 2, Waverley court, 4 East Market Street, EDINBURGH EH8 8BJ | 0131 469 3541 | Michele.Mulvaney@edinburgh.gov.uk

For the two interest group focus groups, it is noted that Portobello Community Council feel that they should not participate in a focus group discussion for the reasons outlined in their response. We would appreciate however that, as part of the recruitment for these groups, if there are particular local interest groups in your networks that you feel should be included you provide us with their contact details.

The discussion guide for the focus groups has been updated as follows:

- The background material will mention that a proportion of the sale will go to Powerleague, due to their long lease interest in part of the site, with the proportion received by the Council being used to fund Meadowbank.
- A statement about the designation of 'open space' will be taken from the Local Development Plan and inserted into the 'background and information' section.
- The reference to the land being used for housing will be replaced to indicate that the land will be used for development.
- In the 'areas for discussion' section, community benefit will be added as a specific discussion topic.

As previously described, there will be no additional observers at the focus groups for the reasons stated in the letter dated 17 July 2017.

The Council will ensure that the report on the findings from all of the engagement given to the bidders is made publicly available and circulated to both Portobello Community Council and Portobello Amenity Society.

Evaluation session

The Council feel that the evaluation session involving community representatives is a key part of this process to ensure transparency in decision making. As both Portobello Community Council and Portobello Amenity Society are involved in this Participation Request, we would like to invite a representative from each organisation to attend the session. A time will be arranged that is suitable to both parties.

Timeline

An updated timeline is set out as follows:

Monday 14 August – mid September 2017 – eight focus groups take place

Monday 21 August – mid September 2017 – online survey is open for responses

September 2017 – report drafted on focus group and survey findings

September 2017 – second closing date announced

November 2017 – second closing date for bids

November 2017 – analysis of bids

December 2017 – evaluation session with community representatives

December / January 2017 – Committee report seeking approval of preferred bidder

Recruitment is now scheduled to start immediately at the locations mentioned above and the online survey is currently being drafted. We will use the Council networks to circulate the survey but would also appreciate your assistance to circulate amongst your local networks to ensure maximum participation.

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

Yours sincerely,

Michele Mulvaney

Community Engagement and Partnership Development Manager

Enclosed: Response from Portobello Community Council (dated 25 July 2017)

Response from Portobello Amenity Society (dated 4 August 2017)

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