



Edinburgh Civic Forum

Note of meeting

6/12/16

1. **Welcome:** Pam Barnes (PB) stands in as Chair. She welcomes members and introduces Chris Adams from CEC 2050 Vision.

2. **Announcements** (John Bury (JB)): The Scottish Government adopts the ELDP. This plan covers all of Edinburgh for the first time since 1965. By the 9th December the document will be on the Edinburgh Council website.

They aim to have an interactive document ready by early in the new year. LDP2 or 3 will be worked on shortly. There is an action programme going to planning this week. Talking about roads, infrastructure, education infrastructure and greenspace.

Supplementary planning guidance will be worked on relating to developer inputs. Payments per type of house, section 75 contributions. Heat mapping produced later next year by way of supplementary planning guidance.

Edinburgh Open Space strategy is out to consultation. Final version going to the planning committee on Thursday 8/12/16

Strategic Development Plan:

Q & A

Q: Are you talking about supplementary conditions for the Bio Quarter in this revision. I don't think it is a strategic site as only a small amount is now for research.

A: It is what it is and still a research site.

Q: Will we be able to see all of the documentation that influenced the action programme?

A: The action programme talks about physical infrastructure.

Q (Fairmilehead CC): Winton Gardens keeps getting refused by the council, reporters and yet Miller Homes keep coming back to re-apply. Is this not a waste of everyone's time and money?

A: Since the LDP went out the reporter has fallen more in tune with the LDP's recommendations. We won't have time for applications that contradict it.

3. **Edinburgh City Vision 2050.** Chris Adams

CEC is thinking about long term planning and decisions for the city. www.edinburgh.org/2050

Q: (R Smith): the phrase “what don’t you like” should be used rather than “what could be better” otherwise you are putting too much of a positive spin on the exercise.

A: noted

Q: Trinity CC (Rodger): 35 years is too long away and the world will be so radically different it is very difficult to comment over that timeframe.

A: Yes but this exercise helps us focus on wants and principles. In Spring we will be responding to ideas.

Q (DC – Cockburn Assn.) We have had Sustainable 2020, SES plan and now this. There are 3 visions for Edinburgh where will this fit and what takes preference?

A: There are many challenges. We want to give this longevity and make it a guiding document for the city.

Q (DC – Cockburn Assn.): Those who comment will need to see tangible outcomes otherwise people will become disillusioned with exercises such as this.

A: we are looking at Copenhagen and Vancouver at the moment as cities which have done similar exercises.

Q (Grange CC Sue Tritton): We have a problem with wealthy home owners putting up high, zero visibility gates in their front gardens and large inappropriate extensions. We keep seeing these applications granted and it reduces community cohesion.

A: This is not a minor issue we agree.

Q: Public architecture is of a very poor quality in Fountainbridge. We need pride in the architecture and more civic connectivity. Not more low quality hotels.

A: you are echoing a lot of the points that were made when we met to discuss the future of tourism. We found that cities that were great to live in were also great to visit.

Q (David Bewsey): Utilities companies are always digging up the roads. Progress for 2050 would have central conduits to save digging up the roads.

A: Noted

Q: How will this tie in with central gov planning?

A: Will we make commitments we are powerless to deliver? Yes, that is an inevitability but this should be seen as aspirational.

Q: There is a transient population in the Old Town. We need to encourage long term residents in places like the Old Town.

Q (Craiglockart CC): If we improve the economy and attract business our population will be more likely to stay. It is sad that young people still tend to leave when they get to a certain age.

Q: There is a lack of affordable housing also for young people.

A: Places for People, Port of Leith, Dunedin & Campbell are the big social landlords. They are currently building a lot of social housing for Edinburgh.

Q: The river and waterfront is an asset we have that could be much better.

Q (DC Cockburn Assn.): Most of these comments have been expressed before in a raft of consultations – so this is a question of process. Who is going to champion this vision?

A: This is not a CEC lead. This is a City Vision Executive Group. The Chief Executive at the council, people from the uni, airport and chambers of commerce. There will also be a secondary school summit.

Q (Chair): We need to remember the importance of preservation. The building on South St Andrews Sq is a classic example of planning failing to preserve/protect Georgian and Victorian Edinburgh.

A: The building went through consultation. Architecture has to be of its time. We should let time judge

Q: What have I heard about a concert hall behind S Andrew's Sq?

A: There is a proposal from a benefactor.

Chair thanks guest speakers and attendees.