



## **WATERFRONT DEVELOPMENT WORKING GROUP**

### **INITIAL MEETING**

**FRIDAY 24<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2015 @ 11.00AM – CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**

### **MEETING NOTES**

#### **ATTENDEES**

Michael Poole (Chair)	(MP)
Michael Betts (Project Coordinator)	(MBe)
Matt Bassford	(MBa)
Dave Eynon	(DE)
Colin Summers	(CS)
Leona Roberts	(LR)
Joseph Birmingham	(JB)
Stephanie Middleton	(SM)
Roger Spink	(RS)

#### **Apologies**

Steve Butler	(SB)
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#### **MEETING**

##### **1. Review of previous meeting's Minutes**

- 1.1 There were no issues with the previous minutes. The minutes are published on FIDC's website ([www.fidc.co.fk](http://www.fidc.co.fk)). The actions from the previous meeting were mostly covered in the Agenda and will be discussed during the relevant agenda items during this meeting.

##### **2. Review of the Waterfront Walk Presentation**

- 2.1 MBe considered the presentation as worthwhile and that it was well attended. He felt it gave a good overview of the working group and its aims, and received a clear idea of the consensus in opinion of those present regarding changes to Whale Bone Arch. MBe added that due to the success of the public presentation, more would be held in the future. RS congratulated both MP and MBe on giving the presentation and considered that it had been a success.

##### **3. Next Steps for the Waterfront Walk**

- 3.1 MP stated that although there were strong objections to major changes to Whalebone Arch Green, smaller improvements were favoured. RS stated that money should be put aside in order for this to happen, as it is what the public wanted.

- 3.2 CS highlighted that money for this would need the approval of Executive Council. MP stated that there was a £200,000 budget put aside for The Waterfront Development Project for 2015/2016 and it would be best to outline all the proposals for how that money should be spent in one ExCo paper, rather than having to keep submitting proposals as this would lead to delays. CS agreed, and stated that some work would commence on the footpath in front of Whale Bone Arch Green as it had been postponed whilst discussions took place on the proposed changes.
- 3.3 CS also stated that the road between the West Store and the Public Jetty will be resurfaced from August onwards which will be completed before the start of the tourist season 2015/2016. These works were also postponed until after a decision was made on Whalebone Arch Green. MP asked whether PWD were dealing with public notification regarding the road works, which CS confirmed.
- 3.4 RS asked for an update on the works on the Public Jetty. CS stated that due to the weather, the works will not be finished by November 2015 as previously hoped. MP asked whether there was any way of meeting the amended target for the jetty and CS stated that this would not be possible, but he was meeting with Morrisons in order to discuss the situation.
- 3.5 DE asked whether the proposed walk on Victory Green was still going ahead. CS stated that the path along the green had been rejected by the Planning and Building Committee but the work at either end of Victory Green was accepted, which means that a way of linking up both ends of the path needs to be found. However, CS stated that there is not sufficient time to do this before the approaching tourist season.
- 3.6 MP brought up the accessibility issues with the public toilets next to the PWD offices. CS stated that PWD are looking at the public toilets as a separate issue. LR asked about signage for the toilets and CS stated that PWD will get in contact with the Tourist Board and the Museum.
- 3.7 MP then updated the group on the progress of the Commonwealth Walk. MP stated that the subgroup had been in contact with a representative from the Commonwealth Walkways and he had sent them provisional costs of up to £60,000. MP stated that it would not necessarily be that much and that the private sector could be contacted regarding funding. LR stated that the walk is a lovely idea however; the cost must definitely be taken into consideration. RS agreed and stated that he thought the sub-group should continue to look into the Commonwealth Walk, subject to the cost. MP stated that the Commonwealth Walk representative had indicated that they hoped to draft a more detailed plan, which would include more accurate costs, and hoped to visit the Islands in November 2015. MP stated that some of the costs of the trip could be taken from of the FIDC budget assigned to Waterfront Development. The proposed launch date for the walk, if it is to go ahead, would possibly be on Commonwealth Day, March 14<sup>th</sup> 2016.

#### **4. Historic Dockyard Update**

- 4.1 MB explained that an ExCo paper regarding the Historic Dockyard had been discussed in late June 2015. This approved the allocation of land to the Falkland Islands Museum and National Trust and Falkland Conservation, that the area was to be used for civic, cultural and community use and that MB would act as an intermediary between the government and tenants.

**Action – MB to meet with representatives from the Museum and Falkland Conservation**

## **5. FIC Plans for Jetty Area**

- 5.1 RS stated that they were still in the process of putting plans together for the FIC jetty area. MP enquired as to whether the FIC were also planning on developing the land on Crozier Place and RS confirmed this, however stated that it was a gradual process and would take time.

## **6. Questions from Members of the Public**

- 6.1 *Question 1 – What’s the difference between the Commonwealth Walk and the Waterfront Walk?*

6.2 MBe explained that the Waterfront Walk forms part of the Waterfront Masterplan whereas the Commonwealth Walk has only recently been discussed and is being introduced in various members of the Commonwealth as an attraction and to celebrate membership of the Commonwealth.

- 6.3 *Question 2 – Is the general feeling that Ross Road should be closed on days when there are large tourist ships in?*

6.4 MP stated that he had spoken to the Chief of Police regarding this and that he was open to the idea of closing the road on busy cruise ship days. MP stated that the opinion of the group is that it should definitely be looked into and that the major issues and considerations should be documented so that they can be worked through systematically. RS stated that consultation with the residents and businesses on Ross Road is essential.

6.5 MP was not sure that the wider public opinion would point to closing the road on tourist days and CS stated that closing the road would have a significant impact on people on John Street and there may be an issue with increased traffic around the Infant and Junior School.

6.6 MBe also stated that during the consultation for the Masterplan, improvements to the road and pathways were favoured over closing Ross Road completely and it is important that the group does not lose sight of the Masterplan. MBe also stated that it is vital that a good understanding of the impact closing the road will have on others. The group discussed that there would have to be exemptions which would allow some drivers to use the road. CS however felt that there may end up being so many exemptions that closing the road would not be worthwhile. SM stated that the first large cruise ship arrives in Stanley on the 17<sup>th</sup> October 2015. MB asked whether or not a trial could be done in order to get an idea of how suitable closing the road would be in terms of traffic numbers and traffic flow in other areas of Stanley. CS stated that although PWD has access to equipment that can monitor traffic levels, it would only give a snapshot and it is more accurate and easier to use human observers.

6.7 MBa stated that the cost and benefit must be assessed. He also highlighted that it would be difficult to enforce and there are a number of other considerations, although he did highlight that people could be encouraged to use other routes on busy tourist days. SM however, was not convinced that this would work.

### **Action - MP to look further into the logistics of closing the road**

- 6.8 *Question 3 – Would it not be best to simply trial closing the road for a season? If a cruise ship did not make it in, the word would quickly spread that the road will be open as usual.*

- 6.9 CS had no objections, provided Ross Road residents and businesses and the police were happy with plans to close the road. CS also stated that, provided that people are cautious when driving on the front road, it does not present a major issue.
- 6.10 *Question 4 – The police use to close the road at their discretion on busy tourist days, would it be possible for them to do that again?*
- 6.11 MP stated that it is possible that police would be able to do this under their discretionary powers, however it would be better to summarise the discussion from this meeting in order to help them to plan the logistics of it.

## **7. Next Meeting**

### *i. Time, Date and Venue*

- 5.1 The next meeting will be held in early September 2015 in keeping with the Working Group's intention to meet every three months.