

FALKIRK COUNCIL**QUESTIONS UNDER STANDING ORDER 32**

Standing Order 32 enables Councillors to put questions to the Leader of the Council or the relevant portfolio holder on matters transacted at a meeting of the Executive or the Education Executive, or to the Provost on civic matters, during the preceding cycle. The table below details the questions asked and answered at the meeting.

A recording of the meeting, including the questions asked and full responses can be found at

<http://www.falkirk.gov.uk/services/council-democracy/councillors-decision-making/committees/falkirk-council-audio/22-june-2016.aspx>

ORDER QUESTION TAKEN: 1	COMMITTEE AND MINUTE REFERENCE: EXECUTIVE - 17 May 2016 (EX17)
REPORT TITLE: TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS – REQUEST FOR SUPPORT	
QUESTION The Administration's Executive members took a decision on 17 May 2016, to grant £1,145 to the Loyal Orange Institution of Scotland Falkirk Branch 36. Cllr C Martin, Leader of the Council or Cllr Blackwood, the Public Protection portfolio holder, is asked to explain in detail why this decision was taken and where the corresponding funds will come from? Any public statement should answer the following two points:	

- Contravention, or not, of Council policy – the Community Grant Scheme - attached as an appendix to the Director’s report.

The Director of Development Services report, 3.3 Policy, directly refers to: “*The scheme generally requires that applications are made well in advance but given recent developments as described in the earlier report **this is not possible in this case**.*”

- Identification of the specific “*roads budget*” now alluded to.

The Director of Development Services report, 3.2 Financial, directly states: “*There are no financial implications other than those contained within the report.*” This is clearly not the case.

Councillor Brian McCabe

ANSWER

The Leader of the Council made the following statement - The Administration took the decision for very clear reasons to minimise the impact on road users and pedestrians throughout Falkirk Town Centre. This decision was entirely about Road Safety to protect the public and the road user. It was not about who the organisations were but about road safety. As Police Scotland had decided late in the day that they were not going to provide traffic management, we had to ensure the March like all marches and parades was undertaken in as safe a manner as possible. Public safety is our number one priority. There was no policy contravention as it was not funded from a community grant scheme but I understand from the Director of Development Services from one of the Network Maintenance fees and charges budget which last year was around £186,000 income. That budget is mainly income (including fees from TTROs) so I believe that the reason there are no financial implications is that this relatively small sum can be met from existing budgets.

SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION

On what basis was the figure reached and was there any suggestion it would be met from the Community Grants Scheme originally.

ANSWER

The Leader of the Council advised that the figure for the costs came from a meeting between officers of the Council including Roads and the management company appointed by the organisers. He further advised that at no time during the discussion was it mentioned that the funding would come from the Community Grants Scheme as this situation was entirely different.

ORDER QUESTION TAKEN: 2	COMMITTEE AND MINUTE REFERENCE: EXECUTIVE - 17 May 2016 (EX17)
REPORT TITLE: DENNY TOWN CENTRE REGENERATION: PHASE TWO DEVELOPMENT	
<p>QUESTION</p> <p>Can the portfolio holder advise Council whether, following the Executive's decision regarding Denny Town Centre Regeneration Phase Two Development, that Phase 2 "... <i>remarketing is delayed until the Phase 1 building is fully tenanted, the town square is in place and car park is fully utilized</i>", is the position of this Administration?</p> <p>Are we proposing that we don't remarket Phase 2 until Phase 1 is "fully tenanted"?</p> <p>Councillor Brian McCabe</p>	
<p>ANSWER</p> <p>Councillor Dennis Goldie, portfolio holder for Economic Development answered that on 7 June 2016, the Council's Executive agreed to Option 2 as outlined in paragraph 3.3 of the relevant report that the phase 2 site would be remarketed on completion of phase 1. The intention is to give the best impression to prospective investors. The site had been marketed without success. The aim was to get the site cleared, complete Phase 1 and get some tenants in. This would be a better time to market the site and give the best impression to prospective investors. However, the situation will be reviewed regularly and, should earlier marketing be considered appropriate, this can be reported back to Members for reconsideration. Any interest expressed outwith the formal marketing process will be pursued.</p> <p>The marketing brief is currently being finalised and is expected to be ready by end of this week. Our commercial agents will issue with a deadline for interest of 26 August. Following assessment of offers, they will provide their recommendation which is expected to be presented to the Council's Executive in September.</p> <p>With regard to the public art proposals 36 notes of interests were received for artist briefs to be issued. We had 15 submissions received by the deadline date. Short-letting and interviews to be carried out in July/August by a community panel.</p>	
<p>SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION</p> <p>Quote from the Falkirk Herald 9 June - the Director recommended that on balance the best way forward was to put the remarketing</p>	

of Phase 2 on hold until Phase 1 is completed and occupied by November. Was she wrong in saying that or did the Falkirk Herald get it wrong?.

ANSWER

Councillor D Goldie replied that neither was wrong. He considered the quote that was perfectly reasonable as phase 1 would have tenants in it between September and October.

ORDER QUESTION TAKEN: 3

COMMITTEE AND MINUTE REFERENCE: EXECUTIVE - 7 June 2016 (EX29)

REPORT TITLE: DENNY TOWN CENTRE REGENERATION: PHASE TWO DEVELOPMENT

QUESTION

The marketing brief is currently being finalised and is expected to be ready by end of this week. Our commercial agents will issue with a deadline for interest of 26 August. Following assessment of offers, they will provide their recommendation which is expected to be presented to the Council's Executive in September.

With regard to the public art proposals 36 notes of interests were received for artist briefs to be issued. We had 15 submissions received by the deadline date. Short-letting and interviews will be carried out in July/August by a community panel.

ANSWER

Councillor D Goldie replied that the marketing brief had slipped by a month from May to June. It is currently being finalised and is expected to be ready by end of the week. Our commercial agents will issue it with a deadline for interest of 26 August. Following assessment of offers, they will provide their recommendation which is expected to be presented to the Council's Executive in September.

With regard to the public art proposals 36 notes of interests were received for artist briefs to be issued. We had 15 submissions received by the deadline date. Short-letting and interviews to be carried out in July/August by a community panel.

SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION

What changes were made to the brief taking on board the local members' concern regarding item 5 of your public art proposals.

This is the public art strategy that identifies an area 5 which is right by Denny Cross and within the marketing brief or within the document called “a place to play – the lazy corner”.

I and the other local members had a meeting with Councillor Goldie where we identified this was not a good place for “a place to play a lazy corner” (right by Denny Cross).

Councillor Goldie was going to take that on board. Was anything done about it?

ANSWER

Informed by the period of community engagement, Icecream architecture consolidated feedback and proposed five broad themes that would direct the development of the public art during the regeneration period. These themes were – Activity; Trade; Networks; Heritage; Environment. The themes are expanded upon fully in the Denny Public Art Plan 2015/17 together with strategic objectives for each as well as suggested opportunities that help illustrate the range of potential approaches for public art development within each theme, respectively.

The 5 Artists' Briefs have been developed in line with the Public Art Presentation that was made to the public. The five commissions are:-

- The Picture House (way-finding and light projection)
- The Treasure Trail (small sculptural interventions across the site)
- The Railings (sculptural and interactive)
- The Staircase (a visual feature)
- The Lazy Corner (a place to play)

The Lazy Corner idea grew out of discussions with the community as an area that people could gather and chat. It is not a play facility but an opportunity to house a playful element within the landscaping/stone work at the floor level of this feature which explores imaginative responses generated by local children and young people for features they would like to see in the town centre. We would envisage the commission as an opportunity to reflect and bring alive some of these elements. I met with Denny Members and Officers who decided that it will be moved from that particular corner and that there will be a reconstruction of that corner basically because of Members.

