

press release



Falkirk Council

05 October 2011

Falkirk Council Pledges To Take Forward Redevelopment of Denny

Falkirk Council today (Wednesday 5 October) agreed a major commitment to deliver ambitious plans to regenerate Denny town centre. It includes a £6.5m contribution by the Council to provide new retail units, a new library, a new town square and additional parking. And the Council stressed its desire to consult with the Denny community on its plans.

The Council was previously in partnership with developers Henry Boot but as the global economic downturn continues, it became clear that, for now, there is little interest by major food retailers to establish a presence in the town.

The plan will see new commercial units constructed in Stirling Street, allowing existing retailers to maintain a presence in the town centre. Development sites will also be marketed to secure additional shopping.

Cllr Craig Martin, Leader of Falkirk Council said: 'Denny has waited too long for this redevelopment and if the market cannot deliver this project, Falkirk Council will.

'We regret that our agreement with Henry Boot Developments has had to be ended. We both tried extremely hard to make this scheme work and spent long hours with the community to finalise our design. However the economic conditions have been so severe it has not been possible to deliver as we had planned'.

'Our new plans reflect previous views expressed by the community. They will see a transformed town centre – demolition is now happening and we aim to create a new public space in the heart of Denny; retail units and a new library –facilities the community of Denny really need. We are also confident that a suitable food retailer will in time be attracted to the town.

Importantly we want the views of the Denny community to influence the final design of our scheme. Prior to submitting our planning application we will consult with the community and will listen carefully to what residents have to say.

Details of the Councils new plans include:

- Securing planning approval for the new scheme;
- Completion of the acquisition process and further demolition/relocations;
- Provision of a first phase block on Stirling Street, accommodating existing retailers and a Library, with associated improvements to parking and public realm and;

- Marketing of the remainder of the site to other interests (including foodstore operators).

The Council recognises that there remain substantial risks with the project but believes that delivery of the project to boost the economic future of the town centre takes precedent.

Cllr Martin added: 'We want to deliver this scheme as quickly as possible. Immediately after the Council meeting we will start to consult.'

'A newsletter will be issued to all Denny residents explaining the Council's plans. We will also hold events to involve the public in finalising the next steps of the regeneration.

'People will have the opportunity to see and comment on the details of the Council's proposals prior to the planning application being lodged and we will keep people posted on our progress through local media, our website, updates to the Community Council and to elected representatives.

'Additionally our staff are available to answer any questions at the newly opened Regeneration Office at 97 Church Walk Denny on Tuesdays 10.00 am – 1.00pm.'

- Falkirk Council (05/10/2011)