

Seafield Sounding Board (Wednesday 9th March 2022)

Attendees:

- Ewan Aitken, Chair
- Peter Allen, Craigentinny and Meadowbank Community Council
- David Cooper, City of Edinburgh Council (Commercial Development & Investment)
- Kyle Drummond, City of Edinburgh Council (Commercial Development & Investment)
- Andrew Fournet, Craigentinny and Meadowbank Community Council
- Lindsay Fyffe-Jardine, Edinburgh Dog and Cat Home
- Cllr Joan Griffiths, Ward Councillor
- Angus Hardie, Leith Links Community Council
- Robin Holder, planning consultant for Manse/Smart
- Cathy Maclean, Action Party
- Colin MacPherson, Manse
- Iain McFarlane, City of Edinburgh Council (Planning)
- Ewan McIntyre, EMA Architects
- Cllr John McLellan, Ward Councillor
- Richard Slipper, Richard Slipper Planning Consultancy, adviser to Edinburgh Dog and Cat Home
- David Smart, Smart
- Gregor Southall, Montagu Evans
- Cllr Alex Staniforth, City of Edinburgh Council (ward councillor)
- Duncan Tait, Smart
- Neil Tulloch, Leith Harbour/Newhaven Community Council
- Nick Waugh, Buccleuch Property

1) Welcome

2) Note of last meeting

- N/A

3) Update from community

- Andrew Fournet noted that Craigentinny and Meadowbank Community Council were preparing a response to the Manse planning application. Andrew noted the updated provided on the Seafield Masterplan exercise.
- It was noted that not all consultees are able to respond to digital exercises.

4) Update from landowners/developers

- Colin MacPherson of Manse advised that the Kaya report had been circulated. Some attendees had not received the report.
- **ACTION: Colin to re-issue the report.**
- Colin noted that a planning application for the Manse site had been submitted and that he was waiting to engage with Council planning officers. Colin noted that Manse has now partnered with the developer Smart.
- Councillor Griffiths queried whether there would be further consultation beyond the application that has been made currently. Iain McFarlane noted that the consultation done on the current application to date is a statutory requirement; further consultation is at the discretion of the developer.
- Robin Holder confirmed that the application was for planning permission in principle and that further consultation would be undertaken on a detailed application if submitted.

- Nick Waugh of Buccleuch Property noted the site owned by Buccleuch was running behind Manse’s site but that Buccleuch was supportive of the wider shift to residential.
- Lindsay Fyffe-Jardine of the Edinburgh Dog and Cat Home welcomed the discussions around master-planning Seafield.

5) Masterplan process update

- David Cooper updated on the masterplan process. The Council’s Policy & Sustainability Committee has approved the appointment of a consultant to prepare the masterplan. Procurement is underway via a mini-competition and it is anticipated that a supplier will begin work on the masterplan in late May 2022.
- The Council will work closely with the community as part of the project team via both virtual and in-person sessions. Documentation around this is being worked up. David advised that the exercise would be to compile a compendium of information to inform the masterplan process.
- David thought the actual masterplan would take around six months.
- Ewan Aitken asked if the masterplan would need to be agreed as part of City Plan 2030. David advised that the City Plan identifies the need for a masterplan; the masterplan would go to Planning Committee for approval as supplementary guidance. Iain noted that the City Plan is being reviewed based on consultation responses. Iain confirmed that the masterplan could be approved and used prior to the City Plan, albeit its weight would be debatable prior to the adoption of City Plan 2030.
- Andrew Fournet welcomed the opportunity to work with the Council on the masterplan.
- Richard Slipper asked if a multi-disciplinary team would be appointed and if the masterplan would look at viability. David Cooper confirmed both points.
- Cathy MacLean suggested that the exercise to gather community views to inform the appointment of a masterplan supplier would need to be clearly explained to attendees to clarity it wasn’t a consultation on the masterplan itself. Cathy suggested that Bellfield in Portobello could host in-person consultation events. David acknowledged the complexity of the process and the need for clear communication.

6) AOB

- Councillor Griffiths noted the importance of in-person consultation.

7) DONM

- Ewan suggested reconvening in April 2022.