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Introduction

This statement has been prepared on behalf of Messrs J & C Macfarlane and outlines the pre-application community consultation undertaken in advance of an Application for Planning Permission in Principle to West Lothian Council for a residential development on land north west of Dechmont roundabout, Main Street, Dechmont.

In this respect, the proposal is classed as a 'Major Development' as defined by the Town and Country Planning (Hierarchy of Developments) (Scotland) Regulations 2009, with a statutory requirement for formal pre-application consultation.

This statement outlines the formal consultation process and summarises the issues raised and discussed which have assisted with informing the preparation of the planning application.

A Proposal of Application Notice (0042/PAC/14) was submitted to West Lothian Council on the 10th of January 2014 (Appendix A).

The Proposal of Application notice was approved on the 22nd of January by West Lothian Council. Appendix F.

The following parties were notified of the proposed development at the same time as the PAN submission;

Dechmont Community Council Uphall Community Council

Councillor Tony Boyle Councillor Alex Davidson Councillor Janet Campbell Councillor Diane Calder

The approved PAN stated the event would be held at Dechmont Memorial Hall between 4pm and 8pm on the 13th of February 2014.

An additional day of Pre Application Consultation was conducted at the same venue on the 11th of June 2014 between 3pm and 7pm. This additional consultation provided information on a slight red line boundary amendment and was also an opportunity to provide additional design detail.

Introduction



Local Press

The public notice was placed in the West Lothian Courier on the 6th of February 2014. A copy of which can be found in Appendix B. The second event was advertised in the West Lothian Courier on the 29th of May 2014 as agreed with West Lothian Council. Flyers were also distributed for the second pre-app event.

Publicity Flyer

Approximately 400 flyers were posted through local resident's letterboxes on the 6th of February 2014. This allowed the first consultation event to be widely advertised and generate a healthy turnout. The second event was also advertised with the same number of flyers, as agreed with West Lothian Council. (Appendix C)

Public Exhibition

The events were held at Dechmont Memorial Hall between 4 and 8 pm on the 13th of February 2014 and between 3 and 7pm on the 11th of June 2014.

The display boards were erected at one end of the exhibition room and attendees were invited in, talked through the consultation process and then directed to the information boards, whereby the public could ask informed questions after reading the information provided.

After question and discussion time with the public, questionnaires were provided (Appendix E) which could either be completed on the day or taken home and returned by post to Clarendon Planning and Development. The questionnaires and display boards were also available to view online at clarendonpd. co.uk/dechmont. A copy of the display boards can be found in appendix D.

A3 copies of the boards and questionnaires were delivered to the local post office for display. This was at the request of the post office and supplementary to the approved PAN.

Attendance

Approximately 70 members of public attended the first event and 40 the second. A register of names and addresses was taken for those who wished to be posted or emailed additional information. 8 contacts were sent extra copies of questionnaires or presentation boards. An additional 50 questionnaires were issued to the local post office with a copy of the boards for public to view in the shop.

Consultant Attendees

Antony DuthieClarendo	on Planning and Development Ltd (Planning Consultant)(First event only)
David HowelClarendo	on Planning and Development Ltd (Planning Consultant)
Ross MansonClarendo	on Planning and Development Ltd (Planning Consultant)
Derek RhindClarendo	on Planning and Development Ltd (Architect)(Second event only)



Introduction



First Pre App Event Presentation Format

The format of the event was explained to visitors in terms of being a prelude to a Planning Permission in Principle application in the early stages of development and therefore sought to present the planning context for the application. The wider design and landscape issues taken into account were presented an indicative design framework of how the site could be developed, as opposed to a fixed layout plan.

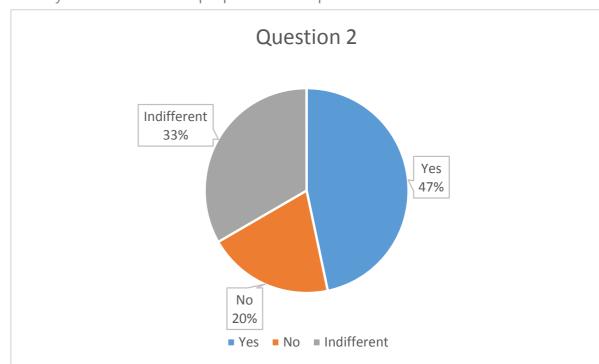
The questions put forward were intended to raise the key issues, allow for discussion on the main principles, and create the opportunity for further general comment.

The consultation process was explained so that visitors understood that whilst comments relating to the exhibition event would be taken into account in the progression of the planning application, the formal period for representations would be via West Lothian Council once the application had been submitted.

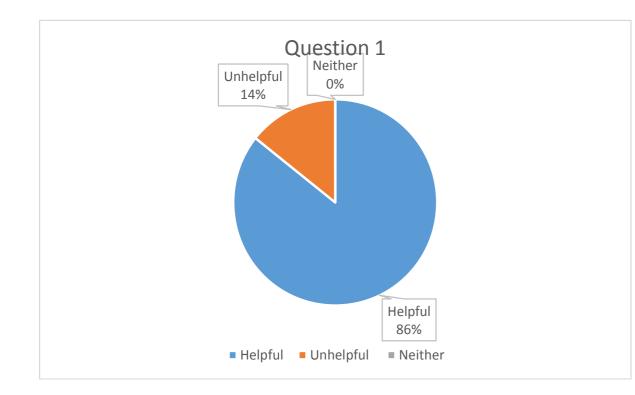
Questionnaire findings

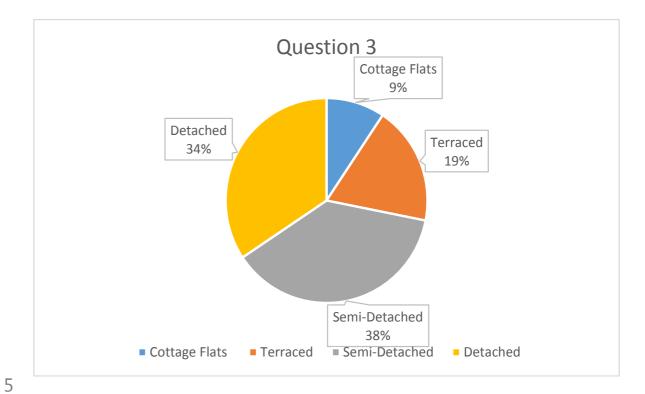
Members of the public were encouraged to complete questionnaires either on the day or at their own leisure via www.clarendonpd.co.uk/dechmont The following pie charts demonstrate the questions posed and questionnaire results.

1. How useful did you find the Public Consultation Event?



3. What type of housing would be most suitable for the site?





2. Are you in favour of the proposed development?

First Pre App Event



4. Based on the indicative proposal, are there any elements you would change?

As this question was not a multiple choice, such does not attract a pie chart. The following, however, summarises the main points exercised in the questionnaires.

- Extend the footpath from the riding school all the way along to Dobbies Garden Centre.
- Provide a safe area for children.

In terms of the footpath, the proposals are intended to provide a new footpath along the site's eastern boundary (A899) to connect with the existing path network. In terms of children's play areas, the proposal is for new open space with play provision within the south-east of the site, which will be overlooked by housing providing natural surveillance.

5. Which aspects of the proposed development are you likely to comment on once the planning application has been submitted?

The main aspects which were considered important by the public were;

- Access
- Amenities
- Larger Homes
- Education
- Road congestion
- Impact to adjacent towns

With regard to the considerations raised, a Transport Assessment has been prepared to address access proposals and traffic impact and the design proposals outline the increased recreational amenity alongside a proposed housing mix. Additionally, an Education Capacity Appraisal will support the application.

The questionnaire findings show the public found the Pre-App Consultation Event helpful and informative, with the majority of those formally responding being in favour of the principle of the proposals.

There was community support for a range of house types including a preference for some larger homes for local families to move to due to lack of supply in the immediate area.

Second Pre App Event Presentation Format

The second event was used to present an indicative layout prepared in the interim period to consider in more detail housing types and design. As with the first event, flyers were delivered to local residents and an advert was placed in the West Lothian Courier on the 29th of May 2014.

The event was reasonably well attended with a number of people attending that were absent from the first event. The members of public who attended the first event were pleased to see how the proposal had progressed and were interested to see how their initial comments have been accommodated within the layout.

The same generic issues from the first event were discussed again, although the indicative layout and removal of the second access point were well received.

Questionnaires

The second event also provided the opportunity for questionnaires to either be completed on the day, online or returned by post. A lack of responses at the second pre app event negated the requirement for pie charts demonstrating the questionnaire results. Instead, a summary of the responses has been provided. The questions posed were as follows;

1) How useful did you find this 2nd Public Consultation Event?

The majority of people found the event helpful.

2) Are you in favour of the proposed development now that more detail has been provided?

The majority of responses were in favour of the proposal with some negative feedback.

3) In terms of the proposed housing, do you support the following, i. Housing mix, ii. Housing Layout, iii. Housing Numbers, iv. Housing Fronting Streets.

Those whom completed this question confirmed they supported the housing mix and the creation of housing fronting the street as opposed to back gardens and harsh plot delineation.

4) In terms of the indicative street layout, do you support the access arrangements, central square and connecting paths to south and east?

Traffic issues were again raised in response to this question, which are considered in the Transport Assessment supporting the application. The open space provision of the development was well received.

Second Pre App Event



5) In terms of the proposed greenspace, do you support the central park and retained open area for woodland drainage, amenity and play area?

The responses received for this particular question were in favour of the open space provision.

6) Do you have any other comments on the proposal at this stage?

General responses to the foregoing question was minimal, including the following quotes;

"Happy only two storey housing."

"Would oppose it strongly due to impact of lack of ancillary facilities."

"We need to see housing design etc. the buildings must be in-keeping with the cottage styles of the villages."

Compared to the attendance number at the event, only a small number of people completed and returned a questionnaire. Only 14 questionnaires were completed in total out of approximately 40 attendees. Additional questionnaires (approx.30 No) were requested by the local shop but no further completed responses were received.

Other Consultation

In addition to the two events, a meeting was also held with Dechmont Community Council on the 28th May 2014 at the Dechmont Memorial Hall. This additional engagement afforded a further opportunity to disseminate proposals to the public.

Conclusions

The number of questionnaires completed was disproportionate to footfall and the large number of questionnaires distributed. The positive turnout was seen to be a direct correlation to the leaflet drop advertising the events thereby ensuring effective public consultation.

A total of 110 people attended the consultation events over both days and 22 questionnaires were completed and returned. This equates to 20% of the total attendees submitting a questionnaire which is a fairly low response rate but looks to suggest no significant opposition to proposals in principle.

The first pre app consultation provided time to progress the proposal and provide more detail for the second event. The public were pleased their suggestions, where possible, had been incorporated into the updated proposal allowing further discussion into specific details of the proposed development.

The consultant team welcomed the input from attendees on the day.

Post Consultation Changes

The issues raised by the local community were valuable in developing the emerging design proposals for the site as the application progressed. The main issues were identified and addressed thereby informing the design framework and indicative site layout where possible.

Since conducting the consultation event, the layout of the proposal has changed by reducing the number of access points into the site to 1 from the initial proposal of 2. The main access to the site is now from Main Street. This similarly accords with West Lothian Council's Officials road requirements.

The approximate number of houses on the proposed layout has reduced in number with the updated plan showing a greater area of woodland planting on the site's eastern edge, creating a stronger long-term boundary.

Given the application is for Planning Permission in Principle detailed design will still be subject of a Reserved Matters application.

Conclusions



Proposa	lof	app	lication	notice
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(to be completed in respect of national and major categories of development) Town & Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 as amended

West Lothian Council

Print Form

Planning Services Development Manage

The planning authority will respond within 21 days of receiving the notice. It will advise whether the proposed pre-application consultation (PAC) is satisfactory or if additional notification and consultation above the statutory minimum is required. The minimum consultation activity includes consultation with the relevant community council(s), the holding of one public event and its advertisement in a local newspaper.

Name	MESSRS J+C MACFARLANE
Address	CO AGENT
Postcode	
Telephone	

Agent's details (if applicable

Name	CLARENDON PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT LTD
Address	EXCHANGE PLACE 2, 5 SEMPLE STREET, EDINBURGH
Postcode	EH3 8BL
Telephone	0131 306 0115
relephone	

3 Address or location of proposed development

Please state the postal address of the prospective development site. If there is no postal address, describe its location. Please outline the site on an Ordnance Survey plan and attach it to this completed notice.

LAND SOUTH OF MAIN STREET, DECHMONT. NORTH WEST OF DECHMONT ROUNDABOUT.

4

Describe in general terms the proposed development.

RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT WITH ASSOCIATED LANDSCAPING, FOOTPATHS, OPEN SPACE, PARKING ETC.

State Class National

✓ Major

5 Please state which other partie Community Council(s)	in the second seco		
DECHMONT COMMUNITY C	COUNTIL	Date notice served	
and a second			
UPHALL COMMUNITY COUNCIL		10.01.2014	
Any other parties	11/ 5111/1 11-10	Date notice served	
LOUNCILLORS; TONY BO JANET CAMPBE	WLE, UTANE CALDER	10.01.2014	
Please give details of proposed	d consultation		
Proposed public event	Venue	Date and time	
PUBLIC EXHIBITION	DECHMONT MEMORIAL HALL	13.02.2014 4pm - 8pm	
Proposed newspaper advert date	6.02.2014		
Where published	NEST LOTHIAN COURIE	12	
Details of any other consultation me			
DETAILS OF CONSULTAN RESIDENTS VIA LEAFLET A planning application for this deve	THROVAH LETTERBOX	. 7 DAYS PRIOR .	
A planning application for this deve the proposal of application notice is undertaken. The application must be	THROUGH LETTERBOX	. 7 DAYS PRIOR .	
A planning application for this deve the proposal of application notice is undertaken. The application must be 7 Data protection Please note that when you submit a address of the application and agent, Applications and Pre-Applications, an associated documentation will also be and published on the council's websit Personal and sensitive information, telephone numbers, signatures, personal	THEOVAH LETTERBOX clopment cannot be submitted is a received and without the state a accompanied by the PAC report a planning application, the infor will appear on the Planning Reg id the weekly list which is circula a available for public access at the te. as defined by the Data Protect sonal email addresses and oth	. 7 DAYS PRIOR . less than 12 weeks from the data sutory requirements having been t. rmation, including the name an ister, the regulatory List of Current ted. The completed forms and an a Development Management officient tion Act 1998, including personate er information considered to be	
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Appendix A - PAN



West Lothian, EH48 2PE. Owners or occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centre(s) who believe that their use or enjoyment of that land would be effected, should make written representations to the Traffic Commissioner at Hillcrest House, 386 Harehills Lane, Leeds LS9 6NF stating their reasons, within 21 days of this notice. Representors must at the same time send a copy of their representation to the applicant at the address given at the top of this notice. A Guide to making representations is available from the Traffic Commissioner's office.



visitor/education facility (Grid Ref.303051 666067) at 1-5. MACINTOSH ROAD, KIRKTON CAMPUS, LIVINGSTON, EH54.7BW

Any comments you make may be publicly available as part of the planning file, which will also appear on the internet. Applications submitted within the Linlithgow ward or the Winchburgh Community Council boundary will be advertised solely in the Linlithgow Gazette. A full list of all planning applications received by the Council is available at www.westlothian.gov.uk and click on the 'Online Planning Applications' for the 'current weekly list of planning applications'.

Town & Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 as amended by the Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (Scotland) Regulations 2008 (Regulation 7 (2) (b)

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PUBLIC CONSULTATION EVENT

In respect of 'pre-application' consultation for proposed residential development south of Main Street and north west of Dechmont Roundabout, Dechmont on behalf of Clarendon Planning and Development's clients Messrs J & C MacFarlane, The event will be held on 13th February 2014 between 4pm and 8pm, at Dechmont Memorial Hall, 71 Main Street, EH52 6LJ. Further information relating to proposals may be obtained from Clarendon Planning & Development Ltd., Exchange Place 2, 5 Semple Street, Edinburgh EH3 8BL -Tel. 0131 306 0115 - Email: info@clarendonpd.co.uk. Please note that comments made to Clarendon will not be classed as representations to the planning authority. They will, however, be considered in the finalisation of proposals. An opportunity to make formal representations to the Council will exist when a formal application is made.





Appendix B - Public Notice Narrative



Proposed Housing Main Street, Dechmont, West Lothian **2nd Pre-Application Consultation Event**



Following an introduction to the above proposal at our previous consultation event in February, you are invited to attend a second exhibition which will present an indicative site layout plan to support an application to West Lothian **Council for Planning Permission in Principle on** behalf of the landowner in June 2014.

We look forward to seeing you at Dechmont Memorial Hall on Wednesday 11th June between 3pm and 7pm.

For more information please refer to our website at www.clarendonpd.co.uk, email us at info@ clarendonpd.co.uk or call 0131 306 0115.



Proposed Housing **Main Street, Dechmont, West Lothian Pre-Application Consultation**

What is happening?

Clarendon Planning & Development are preparing a planning application 'in principle' on behalf of the landowner for housing with associated landscaping and open space.

Why now?

West Lothian has a shortage of deliverable housing land to meet targets and the site can offer much needed private and affordable housing in the short term.

> **Clarendon Planning and Development Ltd** www.clarendonpd.co.uk info@clarendonpd.co.uk

Appendix C - Pre App Flyer

What is Pre-application consultation?

You are invited to attend an exhibition and give your views on the proposals and indicative design solution to help with developing the final planning application.

We look forward to seeing you at **Dechmont Memorial Hall on Thursday** 13th February 2014 between 4pm and 8pm.

