

# Notes of Meeting

**Re: Town Clock Square, Aberystwyth**

**Date: 23 August 2012**

**Present:**

Welsh Government Regeneration team -	Steffan Roberts,
Ceredigion CC -	Richard Duggan, (Development Control)
	Jason Jones, (Regeneration)
	Alun Davies, (Highways)
Powell Dobson Urbanists –	James Brown
Design Commission for Wales	Cindy Harris
	Phil Roberts
	Kedrick Davies
	Michael Griffiths

The Aberystwyth Strategic Regeneration Area was established in 2010 with a budget of £2.3m spread over 5 years. The Welsh Government have adopted a partnership approach working in conjunction with the local authority, university, police, health board and housing bodies. An Action Plan was developed with 5 main themes: town centre regeneration; quality housing; vibrant seafront and promenade; sustainable travel; and tackling unemployment.

Current projects include improvements to the bandstand on the promenade, the railway station/bus interchange, and Town Clock Square. The latter was identified as having an appropriate size and position within the town to deliver a high quality public open space, while integrating traffic movements and encouraging pedestrian priority. A major constraint is the trunk road status of Bridge Street and Great Darkgate Street.

One of the main design aims is to declutter the existing space. This will involve relocating the BT boxes (expensive but necessary) and demolishing the low wall to the north of the clock. A strong but simple paving pattern of diagonal banding is proposed, using slate or epoxy granite strips set in a buff coloured aggregate.

### **DCfW Comments**

- It will be important to maintain these diagonal grid lines across the trunk road, to unify the whole space. This will require early agreement with the Highways Department and Trunk Road Agency, but is vital to maintain the integrity of the design concept.
- We supported the intention to use building-mounted lighting wherever possible.
- With regard to the change in levels across the square, it remains to be demonstrated that this can accommodate the proposed uses, eg market stalls, without the need for steps.
- We were pleased to learn that façade improvements to adjacent buildings are being promoted, with 70% grants available.
- We had some doubts concerning the proposed timber screen behind the corner seating. While we agreed that the corner was a focal point and that the boundary walls of adjacent properties needed protection, we thought a calmer treatment would work better.
- All major signage should be bilingual.

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