

Inspired by the past, picture your future...

LOOK! St Albans

our community voice on design

"In the spirit of community-led neighbourhood planning our ethos is to be transparent, proactive, respectful, collaborative, open, diverse, explorative and community-rooted."
<http://www.lookstalbens.org/> email lookstalbens@gmail.com Twitter [@LookStAlbans](https://twitter.com/LookStAlbans)

44 Tennyson Road
St Albans
Herts
AL2 3HY

26th November 2014

To the Head of Development Management
Planning Department
St Albans City and District Council,
Civic Centre, St Peters Street,
St Albans, Herts AL1 3JE

Dear Sir

Letter of recommendation from Look! St Albans re the outcome of the 3 part design charrette for the St Albans Museums Site Hatfield Road, St Albans, AL1 3RR, held between Friday 24th October and Monday 27th October 2014

'Look! St Albans Our Community Voice on Design' was asked by St Albans District Council, acting as trustees and owners of the Museum of St Albans Hatfield Road, to host an externally independently facilitated design charrette for the site. The council commissioned Angela Koch of ImaginePlaces Ltd as lead external independent facilitator.

Look! St Albans is a fully constituted community-led body with representatives from a wide cross section of the community with an interest in and love of our city centre acting as organisers for community engagement.

Look! St Albans undertook to publicise the event through our website, invitations to supporters, the local press, leaflets, posters and by word of mouth.

A scene setting public meeting was held on Friday 24th October and a public report back session held on Monday 27th October.



An extensive and wide ranging list of stakeholders was compiled by Look! St Albans in consultation with the Council's Property and Assets Manager and the lead facilitator, these were invited especially for the day-long workshop to work alongside residents and the team working to assemble the proposed planning application for the site. These included, council officers, county council officers, local groups, residents, developers, local business people, neighbours to the site and district councillors from across the political spectrum. In addition an 'open-door' procedure was in place on the day.

Those who attended the day-long workshop were Helen Bishop, David Lloyd, Councillor Brian Ellis, Debbi White Property and Assets Manager, Pat Larner, John Metcalf, Michael Fearn, Kate Morris, James Gregory, Tim Leicester, Councillor Annie Brewster, Alastair Woodgate, Councillor Julian Daly, Mel Hilbrow, Simon Cove, Helen Tether Design & Conservation Officer, Councillor Beric Read, Erin Keenan, Chris Debenham, Dan Fletcher, Sue Woodcock, Nigel Gale, Patricia Broad, Vanessa Gregory and Graeme Eastham.

Forty-seven people attended one or more session of the design charrette, contributing in total 329 hours' of work, an average of seven hours per person. Friday 24th October: Part 1 - 31 Participants, Saturday 25th October: Part 2 - 25 Participants and Monday 27th October: Part 3 - 37 Participants.

Layout, access, parking, landscaping, setting, scale, massing, height, uses, appearance, light, roofs, materials, durability, privacy, orientation to include energy efficiency were explored. Informed by the history of the site, historical drawings, Planning Policies (National/Local), draft area conservation appraisal, market & need site analysis, landowner's vision and Look! St Albans draft design codes co-produced by the community with the help of The Prince's Foundation for Building Community.

Four different design concepts were developed and voted upon on the report back session, the clear winner with the highest level of support was Design Concept 1: Oak Tree Gardens. This concept included 11 to 13 units: 3 to 4 town houses (2.5 floors), 3 smaller homes (1.5 floors) 5 to 6 large apartments/ateliers/lofts with Mezzanines.

A number of people who took part in this design charrette have expressed their pride in taking part in helping to shape the future of this small, but significant site within the heart of the central conservation area.

Therefore Look! St Albans is delighted to recommend to you the outcome of this design charrette. This letter of support will be placed on our website, distributed to our supporters and those who took part in the design charrette to ensure it is public and widely available. It will be offered to the local press.



The full outcome of the design charrette can be downloaded here
http://www.lookstalbens.org/uploads/2/7/7/4/27749191/mosta20design20charrette20october202014_debriefbyimagineplaces20.pdf

A summary of the outcome of the design charrette can be downloaded here
http://www.lookstalbens.org/uploads/2/7/7/4/27749191/summary_mosta_design_charrette_october_2014_debriefbyimagineplaces.pdf

Yours faithfully

Vanessa Gregory

Chairman of Look! St Albans

