From York Central Action to York Central Partnership

26th October 2017

Dear Catherine Birks, on behalf of the York Central Partnership

I am writing again on behalf of York Central Action to express our unease about the way that public engagement is being conducted in relation to the York Central site.

We have proposed an approach to community engagement, sent detailed proposals that arose from the community conference and have repeatedly asked for more information so that consultations that have taken place thus far can be well informed.  Our long letter of 8th September contained a number of specific concerns and a request for more time for consultations. You have always replied on behalf of the Partnership saying that our inputs have been noted and sent to all the partners and consultants.  We are yet to receive any substantive responses to the issues we have raised from any member of the Partnership.

In the recent meeting between York Central Action representatives and David Carr and Mary Weastall (19th October, 2017) Mary made it clear that sharing of information should be the default position and was an essential component of building public trust in City of York Council and its partners responsible for this development.

Therefore we ask again for answers to the following questions:

* Who, and what is the development of York Central for?  Specifically, how will the development contribute to the City’s aims to achieve greater fairness, reduce inequality and transform York for a sustainable future?
* What are the projected traffic levels and how much will this increase traffic congestion and air pollution?
* Why have access options other than Southern, Western 1 and Western 2 been ruled out?

We are also concerned about the apparent lack of scrutiny over the access decision.

Furthermore, can you assure us that from this point on, throughout the planning, and build of the development:

* Data and contextual information that inform assumptions and statements will be freely and easily available to the public
* the Partnership will commit to a practice of collaborative working with residents, their representatives, and community groups in order to ensure that the lived experience and aspirations of local residents are at the centre of decision-making regarding the development (I reiterate our willingness to help with this)
* Sufficient time will be given to enable individuals and community groups opportunity to consider, consult and develop well informed responses to proposals of the Partnership and it’s members.

Yours sincerely

James Pitt

Chair, York Central Action