
From: Willie Gallagher
Sent: 28 September 2006 18:23
To: Colin McLauchlan
Subject: RE: Trams: West End Association

I plan to meet with him and then as they say.....over to you. We must however quickly build a map of all the organisations to ensure that we have them properly managed.

From: Colin McLauchlan
Sent: 28 September 2006 16:25
To: Willie Gallagher
Subject: RE: Trams: West End Association

Thoughts

Need to ensure that Mike covers himself – where needs be bring good operations people for support – also get himself over their with his team?

Maybe need to ensure suitability of audience Sam engages with and if there is a problem with web site and she is telling professional people they may struggle then lets sort!

Have one on one session with the guy.....though feels like he is playing way above his station – he is a two store outfit not a UK national like those he has written too - invite those he has written to in one on one? Whats his agenda?

Happy to support Mike in these events too

Regards

Colin

Colin J McLauchlan
HR Projects Director

tie ltd
Verity House
19 Haymarket Yards
Edinburgh
EH12 5BH

tel: +44 (0) [REDACTED]
fax: +44 (0) 131 622 8301
mobile:
e-mail colin.mclauchlan@tie.ltd.uk

From: Willie Gallagher
Sent: 28 September 2006 14:09
To: Colin McLauchlan
Subject: FW: Trams: West End Association
Importance: High

From: Tom Aitchison [mailto:tom.aitchison@edinburgh.gov.uk]
Sent: 27 September 2006 15:57
To: Willie Gallagher; David mackay; Andrew Holmes
Subject: Fw: Trams: West End Association
Importance: High

TRAMS: WEST END ASSOCIATION

Attached is a copy of an email from the West End Association (Michael Apter), via Michael Laing. Would you please ensure that the confidentiality of the email is respected. I would also be obliged if you, Willie, could review the points made and let me have your reaction to them.

Best wishes.

Tom

----- Original Message -----

From: Michael Laing
To: Tom Aitchison
Sent: Wednesday, September 27, 2006 9:02 AM
Subject: Trams

CONFIDENTIAL:

Dear Tom,

I hope all is well with you.

I have received the e-mail below from Michael Apter (West End Assoc). I know that there are a number of retailers with concerns about the whole tram transport solution and its implementation planning in particular.

It is important that you are aware of these views at the earliest stage, so I have asked and received Michael Apter's permission to share his e-mail on a 'private' basis (with the Council).

The retail groups will be discussing this through the City Centre Management, but I felt it important to give you early warning of these views.

EARL is a completely different issue which is viewed as a very positive move.

Regards,
Michael

Laing the Jeweller

Tel. [REDACTED]
Fax. [REDACTED]
www.laingthejeweller.com

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From: Michael Apter [mailto:michael@papertiger.ltd.uk]
Sent: 21 September 2006 16:34
To: Michael Laing; jos@helios-fountain.co.uk; rwinter@princesmall-edinburgh.co.uk; gordon.drummond@harveynichols.com; denzil.skinner@hamiltonandinchies.com; Isabella_Miller@JohnLewis.co.uk
Subject: Trams[Scanned]

Hello All

Last night we held a (sparsely attended) Edinburgh West End Meeting. We were addressed by Mike Connelly, Samantha Kelly and Raymond McMaster from TIE. It was quite simply one of the most pointless and embarrassing presentations that I have ever had to endure. They were unable to answer the simplest questions, and referred many requests to their website. Samantha Kelly suggested that members should call her up and she would talk them through the site 'as it's quite complicated'.

I have a degree of sympathy, as TIE are still waiting for the final green light, and are consequently unable to provide definitive answers. However, it raised a number of concerns which I think that we need to discretely address:

- TIE representatives seem to be unclear on even the simplest of issues. For example, last night they could not tell us how the tram track would fit into Shandwick Place, nor could they provide us with the location and configuration of the station. They had no idea how long the construction process would take, and seemed to be lost in the minutiae and unable to grasp the bigger picture. If this scenario is replicated around the city it will make a mockery of the construction timetable
- There do not seem to be any guarantees or even reliable estimates about the route, positioning of track and stations, or the length of time the work would take to carry out
- In my personal view the calibre of people responsible for the consultation is poor
- For the next three or four years the city centre will be undergoing what could be the largest and most invasive project it has ever had to endure. I am concerned that the people steering it are capable of managing it to our satisfaction
- We were addressed by TIE at a retail forum meeting late last year/early this year, and I feel that the process has actually gone backwards since that meeting

I know that we are due to have a working party set up with Mike Connelly at TIE, and that Ewen Aitken will address the next Forum meeting. However, the consultation process for tram implementation is allegedly due to start in November, with the business case due to be cleared by the council in December. Preliminary work starts in January, and the main work starts in the spring. More than ever I feel that the city is sleepwalking into a situation that will make the traffic management debacle seem like a picnic in comparison.

I am conscious that time is ticking away. The tram network has been presented to the city as a 'fait accompli', and I appreciate that the Retail Forum has adopted a co-operative approach toward the tram implementation, but I have grave misgiving about how this will be carried out. I attended a meeting at the Chamber of Commerce in July (at which Isabella was present), in which the transport representatives of each main party all acknowledged that if they could re-plan the transport network for Edinburgh they would not include a tram system.

Is there anything that we can do to improve matters? Has anyone from TIE responded to the ten points that we drafted? Should I stop panicking?

Regards

Michael

-----Original Message-----

From: SG_AdminAssistant_Edinburgh@JohnLewis.co.uk [mailto:SG_AdminAssistant_Edinburgh@JohnLewis.co.uk]
Sent: 29 August 2006 09:27
To: mnl@laingjeweller.co.uk; jos@helios-fountain.co.uk; rwinter@princesmall-edinburgh.co.uk; gordon.drummond@harveynichols.com; michael@papertiger.ltd.uk; denzil.skinner@hamiltonandinches.com
Cc: Isabella_Miller@JohnLewis.co.uk
Subject: Retail Forum Working Party

The next meeting is on Wednesday 30th August at 12.30 to 13.30 and will be

held in the Branch Meeting Room on level 5 of the store.

Please let me know if you will be attending.

Many thanks

Cathy

Extension [REDACTED]

Management Office

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Registered in England 233462

Registered office 171 Victoria Street London SW1E 5NN

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