

**VIEWFIRTH REDEVELOPMENT PROJECT
FOR DISCUSSION AT DSG – 15th September 2010**

At the Socio Economic sub group meeting held on the 21st July the Viewfirth Redevelopment project was discussed. This was pre-empted by a meeting held with David Brookfield who asked for DSG members to discuss fully the project and agree a way forward.

For those who were not involved with the project from the onset:

- The NDA asked DSG to consider whether a community project could be housed at the old Viewfirth site and a steering group, under David Brookfield's chair, was set up following a DSG public meeting.
- This project has been ongoing for three years and the Steering Group, especially David Brookfield, has done a tremendous job in consulting and evolving the concept designs. The next stage would be to identify funding streams to allow this project to progress.
- David Brookfield is keen to have an agreed approach to this. His feeling is that, if support continues for the Viewfirth development, then it will need a champion. If the decision is not to go ahead with this project then DSG should consider another community project which needs support.

Following a lengthy discussion at the sub group meeting (DSG/SESG(2010)M003 refers) members regrettably decided that the Viewfirth redevelopment project should be disbanded.

This decision was based on the current financial climate, the fact that there were other projects currently underway which still required funding before moving forward, the closure of the cinema and the lack of active support by the community in the Viewfirth project.

We have written to the NDA, without prejudice pending a decision at DSG on 15th September, asking whether they would consider donating the funds made available from the sale of the Viewfirth land to one of the other community projects. No project has been singled out and, if the NDA are happy to donate the funding, the next step will be to identify a suitable project moving forward.

DSG members are asked to endorse with approach and place on record thanks to David Brookfield and his team for their tremendous efforts in trying to secure support for a redevelopment on the Viewfirth site.

Derrick Milnes
Socio economic sub group chairman
31st August 2010

