For item 7

Statement from the New Malden Future Group
on the Cocks Crescent SPD

Following the Growth Committee meeting in November last year, the New Malden Future Group sent a letter to all councillors and both local MPs urging a united approach to secure the creation of a new heart for New Malden, to reinvigorate and sustain it for the future as a vibrant, interesting, friendly and popular place.

The New Malden Future Group is made up of representatives from the New Malden Residents Association, Groves Association, Community of New Malden Businesses, Kingston Society and a number of interested individuals.

We are not affiliated to any political party but we care passionately about New Malden.

We believe that Cocks Crescent and adjoining land provide a once in a lifetime exciting opportunity to create something special for New Malden’s future. The Malden Leisure Centre has been a great success over the years and we want to build on its popularity with new modern improved facilities that can better meet existing needs and those of the future.

The vision we set out over two years ago, which has had overwhelming public support, was that this should be secured through high quality development, to create a new modern community hub - comprising of new swimming pools and leisure centre, library/cultural resource/art facility, new town square, reinvigorated open space. These would be delivered through enabling housing development on an appropriate scale together with scope for shopping, services and other town centre and employment uses.

In response to our petition last October the council clarified and confirmed that development would include a new leisure centre and new town square. As a result, the vision in the SPD was amended to reflect our vision and that of the wider public whose response was to align, in principle, with the vision that we had put forward.

We have been dismayed by the various leaflets, political or otherwise that have been circulated in the community seeking to make capital on the basis of misleading statements and scaremongering.
Those doing this have many questions to answer, but what are their answers?

They focus on what they do not want, but where do they define what they do want? What are the alternatives? How will the much needed substantial community and public benefit, now guaranteed by the SPD, be otherwise secured?

We have sought to identify through research and review of similar successful developments and promote what could be good for New Malden’s future wellbeing and meet the needs of the local community. We are totally opposed to over development and many examples from elsewhere show how high quality, people friendly development can be secured. We firmly believe, that while not perfect, the SPD is capable of securing this.

The London Plan policies on density, height and car parking provide a range of what might be appropriate depending on the location and characteristics of the area. They are not an automatic and prescriptive formula that has to be applied at the highest level in all circumstances and certainly not in the case of New Malden. To suggest anything else is nothing but misleading.

We again urge and commend a unified approach to the next stages of implementation for a brighter future for New Malden. We challenge the council, and the community will hold it to account, for it to deliver on its promises to secure maximum community benefit, and for it to fully grasp this opportunity in an imaginative and bold way, and to ensure that we all have something to be truly proud of for the long term future.

New Malden Future Group
Barbara Delamere, Groves Residents Association
Zbig Blonski (planner), Groves Resident's Association
Niki McGibbon, Groves Residential, Community of New Malden Businesses
Richard Allum, Parry & Drewett, Community of New Malden Businesses
Justin Cooper (architect), Mohsin Cooper Limited
Frances Marsh, New Malden Residents Association
Val Martin-Gennings, New Malden Residents Association
Maureen Shilston, local resident
Anthony Evans (architect/planner), Kingston Society, local resident
Annie Amos, Kingston Vale Operatic Society
Seb Amos, Brycbox Action Group