

Application for planning permission in principle for the Eden bridge across East Dock Street and railway (23/00813/PPPL)

Dundee Civic Trust strongly welcomes the proposal for a pedestrian and cycle bridge between the Docks area and Eden Dundee. This is a vital component of the access to the Project, and will link Eden to the Docks, the Waterfront and to other key attractions in the city centre. We consider it to be essential to the early success of Eden that the bridge is ready and available for use on the day that the Project opens.

The planning application is for approval in principle, but as some detail is contained in the application, the Trust wishes to comment on a number of these aspects so that they may be considered, and reflected in the full proposals when the detailed application is submitted.

We welcome the principle of a single span bridge. It must be striking and distinctive, and worthy of the main destination which it will serve.

We welcome the fact that the bridge will be open 24 hours a day; we are aware that Eden Dundee recognise that they have a responsibility to the wider needs of nearby residents, who have lately been denied easy access to the Docks area. The bridge will serve them as well as visitors to Eden, because it will allow access between the wider Docks area and those areas of the city which are to the north (Stobswell in particular) and the north west via the refurbished Peep o' Day Lane and Foundry Lane.

We believe the bridge should make a wider and bolder statement than seems to be suggested in the submitted plans. This has the potential to become a significant icon for the city as well as for Eden itself. This will be appropriate for the entrance to Eden, and it will allow for a suitably wide bridge deck that can separate pedestrians and cyclists. An increased width will complement the welcome and generously landscaped approaches and the shallow path up to the raised level - most appropriate for a bridge to Eden.

There is a great opportunity to highlight the bridge with imaginative and eco-friendly lighting. We also welcome the use of timber and steel in the design as being appropriate to the ethos of the Eden project.

At the full application stage it will be helpful to show on the plans the routes that pedestrians and cyclists will take from where the bridge access paths terminate in East Camperdown Street to the Quayside and Waterfront.

Dundee Civic Trust looks forward to seeing the fully developed proposals, followed by the early implementation of the plans.

Donald Gordon

Chairman

Dundee Civic Trust