

## **Archway Steering Group Meeting**

**Vittoria - 8.10.2005**

### **English Speaker 1 (assume Chairman):**

I think, we can move at some pace through this I guess you will have done the business yesterday pretty well, this is for the politicians now which is me and Joe and to agree or disagree with all of this so you have got to behave and agree. Okay, so on the agenda the minutes of the meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> June in Den Bosch, which you have, is everyone happy with those? You will have seen them before I guess. Are there any matters coming out of those minutes? Any matters arising? I will give you a couple of minutes maybe to look at them. Any matters that are not otherwise on the agenda? Anyone got anything? Is everyone happy? If you are not, this is the moment, once we pass this you have to stay happy.

Okay, can we move then to item 3.... okay, Valletta have to go, so with your agreement can we go to item 4? 4b, Valletta - current position on their workshops, task groups, presentation. Victor.

*(recording goes silent for a couple of minutes)*

### **Nick:**

As long as anything we spend is in connection with the aims of our project then it's okay to spend it but obviously there are numerous rules we have to follow, but if you are going on a fact finding mission, if you are going to visit places, like we have been the last few days, then the expenditure should be .

### **Male Dutch Speaker:**

We can't stay longer than we arranged before because our flight is already arranged....

### **Chairman:**

The domestic arrangements, we will take care of that for those that wish to do it. Fine, wonderful, Chris, where do I go now on the agenda?

### **Chris:**

I don't know whether there is any other item that Valletta would be interest in...

### **Chairman:**

...because you have to go, you have to leave, so are there any items here which you necessarily wish to comment on?

You are okay? Fine, let's then go back to item 3 - Overview Second Project Report - what we have done so far. It says 15 minutes but I don't think we need 15 minutes, Chris?

**New Speaker (Spanish - Carlos?):**

Sorry, one moment, it is necessary to use the micro(phone) for the record.

**Chris:**

Fine, thanks, Chairman, yes, I just want to give you a little report on where we are up to on our second interim progress report. These are the 6-monthly reports that we have to submit to Interreg IIIC on behalf of the project and it's really set out in a clear form and it's to enable Interreg IIIC to see how we are getting on, see if we are having any problems, see how the finances are going, etc. Now we did have some slight problem with the finances of some of the partners because of various reasons they were not able to get their accounts for the period January to June. They weren't able to get their accounts properly audited and back to us in time for the due date so we had to submit our report without those papers, but with an explanation as to why they were late. Now we are waiting to see what Interreg IIIC say about that, we left just as we sent the report off so we haven't had any response. So rather than give you a copy of the report I have tried to summarise what's actually happened. So in the report we talked about the appointment of Maude here, which has been a significant advantage to the project and a great relief for me, I think for all of us. Maude actually was appointed in April of 2005 so it was in the reporting period so that's a significant thing we have been able to say. We had our first Steering Group meeting in Den Bosch on 25<sup>th</sup> April with 80% of partners attending. We also had two part 1 workshops in Den Bosch of course in April and then again at the latter in June, with 90% attendance of partners.

Back at the ranch we were still working hard with the administration of the project and we had the final signing of the Subsidy Contract and the Partnership Agreement; that was very important, our legal department spent a lot of time on that and we were happy to report that they were all finally signed.

And plans were made for three further workshops, plus the Steering Group we're at at the moment for the second part of 2005. I think one of the things coming out of here is the high level of partnership commitment shown by all of the partners, in spite of local difficulties and local workloads - and we know that everybody has those - but we are all grateful and I would like to take the opportunity to say thank you to all of you for the time that you give to Archway and I know it is in addition to your day job as it were and I am grateful because I know this is an extra burden on you and we are very appreciative of it.

As far as the summary of activities, we are still continuing those, we came up with a more refined way of working which we hadn't thought of before, in as much as we appointed the task groups which would take forward the findings of the first workshop and work them up into some sort of situation that could be reported to the second workshop in each series.

And the first drafts of our first two best practice guides of Transport one and the Conservation are in the course of production. Regular partner communications were established by e-mail and newsletters and I would like to mention here that we have now finally established our standalone Archway website which is waiting to be loaded up when we get back to the office so that will prove another good tool to enable us to better communicate and pass messages.

**Chairman:**

When will it be going live do you think?

**Maude:**

It should be going live we hope mid October because it's all ready to go because also we are still waiting for password protects. But I am going to give a presentation and show everybody how the website is going to look, so yes.

**David Bruce:**

Just on that, if the minutes could actually include the firm date it will look much better for passing on.

**Chris:**

And work has begun on the legacy conference as well. Moving onto publicity and dissemination; there is a particular section in the progress report dealing with that and of course we have mentioned the Archway standalone website. We have produced our first brochure which I think you have all seen, the blue one, which again we have been able to pass copies round to all of the partners and we are hoping you will be able to use those and let people in your own towns have those. It will be a very valuable tool I think. We are going to put it in the Walled Towns' Friendship Circle Information Pack. So that's an excellent little production and probably we will have to go into re-print quite soon because I think we have already got rid of nearly the 1000 copies that we had originally done. We have had some very good practice coverage over the Archway Project, particularly here in Spain and I would like to thank Carlos and Sebastian for making sure that the local press have been kept informed and there's some particularly nice photographs, I thought, in the edition of 'El Cadeo' (*laughs*) is it? So, it's comforting to see that the local press are picking that up and would urge you, in all of your towns, to try and get the press interested and do as many press articles as you can, radio or whatever, on Archway.

Moving onto challenges, there are always challenges in every walk of life aren't there and I am afraid the progress report was no different. The shortage of time to submit audited financial claim forms within Interreg IIIC's timescale has been a problem, but I went go into that now, I think Nick might refer to it later on in the agenda. I think we are all finding that Archway perhaps is a little bit more taxing than we thought, there's quite a lot of work to do and as I said before I am very grateful to you for giving your time to that.

We need to get all theme partners to be aware of the budgets that are available for running workshops so we can make sure that spending is on target, but there again, Nick will talk a little more about that down the agenda. But in spite of those challenges, I would like to pay tribute to the fact that the partners are experiencing the advantages of working together which in turn is helping increase general awareness, knowledge and exchange of experience, and this is one of the main thrusts of Archway - it's not only the production of the outcomes of what we do here, I think it's the fact that we are all working together is a big plus and I think it is something that the EU are promoting very hard.

And partners in Archway are also working on other things - you know, outside of Archway, I know Den Bosch have many projects, Chester too, and we are working together, and other partners are working together on things such as Culture 2000 and the Life Environment Project. So it provides, if you like, a forum where we can find partners to do other things as well so Archway is a very good tool for that.

A summary then - Archway is developing, I am sure you will all agree with that especially after the hard work that we did yesterday. Its working processes are continually being refined and its future, I think, looks very promising. Of course there are going to be problems and difficulties with support, but with the level of support and hard work shown by all the partners, as I mentioned, we're confident of an excellent result at the end of the Project.

So, that's my report, thank you Chairman.

**Chairman:**

Okay, any questions or comments on that which Chris has reported to us. Or can we accept that and thank Chris and Maude and indeed all of you for the work that you are doing and take this interim summary.

**Chris:**

There may be comments back, we will let you know, if there's any help that we need from you to finally sign off that interim report we will certainly let you know.

**Chairman:**

Can we then move on to Nick's breakdown and some of the points which actually concern University of West England, Lucca, Pecs and Verona maybe, I don't know.

**Nick:**

I won't go into too much detail and I will try and do both items (b) and (c) together. I am sure finance isn't - well it's always an important issue - but if you are not finance specialists I will try and keep it at a reasonable level. I haven't done a... well I have done a PowerPoint presentation... I haven't brought it with me (so that was a good start!) I did bring some handouts which should be in your packs, so can I draw you to those please.

To start off with, in terms of our budget, we had a total budget of just under €793,000 and this project is over a three year period. Each partner has a budget for staff time and for travel and accommodation. Each of the themed partners has €23,500 for workshops and also for the legacy conference as well. On the workshops I have been speaking to each of the partners to make sure that they are aware of the money that they have got and what they propose to spend it on and again, through conversations yesterday, I would like to confirm that I would like partners to speak to Chester as lead partner on what they propose to spend. We also have the management and co-ordination of the lead partner. In terms of budget duties, I wrote prior to the beginning of the project, some financial management procedures that partners should follow and they include things like accounting rules on whether you can or can't recover it because if you can recover it then it shouldn't be in the claim forms. If you're spending any money that needs to be converted into euros, then how to go about doing that. I also gave

some guidance on reporting some of the dates, the particular forms to fill out, and the supporting documentation that should accompany the claims.

Just to bring out a couple of issues, just looking at the important ones, I don't need the original copies of supporting documentations, you should keep those, your auditors will be interested in seeing the originals, but if I could have a copy of them that would be good. In terms of the forms - most peoples that I have seen have been good, they have been very detailed, showing the dates, what it was - whether it was a train, a lunch or whatever and, what it was for, for example the conservation workshop in Den Bosch, etc.

In terms of rules, the EC and Interreg used to send out lots and lots of guidance and rules for employing experts and going on flights, they used to say several years ago that we could only go on economy flights, etc, etc. They seem to have changed the rules but they still say that each partner has to comply with the stricter of their local rules, their national rules or with any EC rules that exist. So for example on tendering we have to comply with the stricter of those issues, if you want to employ experts then you need to make sure that you are complying with the stricter of those rules.

The last thing on budget duties is that partners are responsible for their elements of their local budget and in order that they can make sure that they don't spend lots of money without getting any grant back, they need to put it in staff time and sometimes real money as they are co-financing and I hope that everyone realises this - I have been time-keeping.

Over the page, if I may. Possibly the biggest problem that has occurred so far has been that five of the partners were not audited in time. Every six months we have to submit a report and financial claim. We then have two months, so each period is the 1<sup>st</sup> January to the 30<sup>th</sup> June. We then have two months to report to Interreg. Which means that each of you have to prepare your report, your finances, have them audited, get them back, send them to Chester, I have to get them all consolidated, have it audited in total, and then send it off. It is a very, very short time period. It is a silly short time period. I have tried to get it extended to three months to Interreg, who said, "no", we then have the problems with the auditors and they then gave us the month's extension, but I don't think they will want it every time, so I have asked partners to look at the reasons why it is taking some of the delays in being audited and if it is possible to find a way to improve it. Our two Italian partners, for example, have had problems with auditors, it wasn't their not doing their claims because I saw their information weeks and weeks ago, but for some reason, they auditors have a problem with some of the guidance that Interreg have been given. So there have been delays, but what we want to try and do is make sure that we find out what the problems are and overcome them. But we will in future have a very tight deadline on these things. I am expecting some criticism from Interreg, especially as they gave us an extension. There are good and valid reasons why they have ~~wiped~~ the case but anything we can do next time - not to do that - would be good.

One of the big problems is with something called de-commitment which means that the European Commission give Interreg, who are a Management Body, money to administer and if they do not spend it fast enough, the EC can de-commit it and take some back, which means that projects that are already ongoing and who are under-spending, could find that Interreg say, "Well we've had money taken off us, so all of you are going to have to have money taken off you". Which will cause, if this happens, serious problems for any ongoing project not just ours - any ongoing project.

I am hoping this is not going to be the case; several years ago they used to have a rule that said that if you do not spend your money within the two year period that you told us that it was going to occur then you would have this problem. They seem to be saying now that it's immediately if you start slipping behind then they want to why, they do not want us to slip behind.

We are obviously behind for two main reasons; one is that four other partners still haven't had their finances audited; and the second is the timings of the workshops relative to the periods for Interreg and they are not a problem because, apart from the fact they are just delays, we haven't got to go and find lots and lots of things to spend our money on. This is not a big project with a big budget. So please don't think that we have got lots and lots of money to go and spend, that's not the case. But I do urge you to try and see what you can do about complying with the 6-month period and then the two-month deadline. I appreciate it is very, very tight.

Documentation...

**New Speaker interrupts at this point:**

There is just a question; the two month period is the whole period that we are due to submit the condition to the European Union, so the period for us to send you the report is shorter, how long is it, what is the period expected for you.

**Nick:**

I have given myself two weeks to be able to pull everything together; it doesn't take me very long, as long as I make sure that I am in the office and available to pull everything together and do the form - it doesn't take me very long. I then have to co-ordinate my auditors; as long as I am organised, I have got my auditors ready, it doesn't take me very long, so I have to tried to give you the most period, so you have 6 weeks and I appreciate that is not very long but I am being very organised in only having two, and that's building in anticipation that not everybody will be bang on time, so I am actually leaving myself a very, very short time.

In terms of documentation, I said before, I don't need the originals; your auditors like to see the originals, just send me copies. In terms of any supporting documents it is nice to have as much information as possible but not too much. For several good reasons; one is that it becomes a bureaucratic exercise, we just need some evidence to show what there is and I will, as you spend money, speak to you about it, could you also send me this and this, rather than give you a huge long list of documents as it just gets a big financial exercise rather than concentrating on the project.

And, probably the last point on documentation is that would it be possible to have some of the explanations in English as some of them have not been in English and some of them have not been easy for me to understand, so anything, even if you just write on a bit of paper what it is, or if you reference on the forms to the documentation so that the English is on the form and the Italian or whatever, is on your documentation, that's fine. I don't speak your languages, my auditors don't, so to some extent we do place reliance on your auditors anyway. So we don't have to go through a big rigmarole of having too much conversion into English, but something so that I can understand what each piece of paper is.

One thing that's important and has effected a number of partners is that to be eligible within that claim period it has to have been paid not just that you have received an invoice, but that you have paid that invoice. Being paid varies from country to country as to what they deem as paid. Some people deem it as paid when a cheque or electronic transfer goes through your bank in Chester, that's not the case, our auditors accept it paid as soon as we have issued a cheque - that's fine. So whatever works in your country. Several people have had expenditure that has been taken off that claim period because it wasn't paid. It only really gets important towards the end of a claim period, for example, in December, if you run a workshop like Den Bosch is doing, I suspect that because of timing, that will go in the next one, not in that one, because it will not have been paid in time, you will get bills after and it will be going to the next period. It will mean therefore that we don't get the grant on it until later, okay?

In terms of audits, some of you have to have external audits. Some are private companies, some are through your ministries. Some are able to have their internal auditors, as long as they are independent. In Chester, I am able to have my own internal auditor, which is part of the reason why I am able to do it very quickly. I don't have to go out to an external one as long as I am nice to them and speak to them and arrange it I can get it done very quickly through internals. But I do not have any say over them, they do come in and they do tell me when I have got things wrong and I have to change things. But those who have got external auditors are the ones that have the biggest issues.

In terms of the audits, Interreg have given us a number of tests that they want auditors to carry out and the auditors will need to carry out those tests but they will also need to use their professional judgement in knowing the different rules of each country. What I then need is the tests if possible that they have carried out. Some organisations have been able to send them and some have not. I am not that worried about the tests, I would prefer them if there was an internal auditor to have the tests, definitely. But it is then the audit certificate to say that we have carried out all the work and everything is okay, as long as I have that, brilliant, that's the main thing.

I then produce a consolidated claim to the Secretariat of the EC, Interreg IIIC in Lille and we then wait to see what happens.

Turning over the page again. Just to try and give you a brief....

**Chairman:**

Could we just stay with... before you turn over.... because it seems to me that there are a number of issues that you need really to underline and we need to confirm that everybody has fully comprehended what you are saying about the audit certificate, about the need to have annotation in English on the documentation and there is also something that occurs to me, that I think that you said that we are expecting criticism from Interreg, but some of the things that are happening are beyond our control and I just wonder whether we, as a circle, ought to make some representation because right across the whole process, others must be experiencing these kind of difficulties which are because of Interreg's process and I just wonder whether we ought not to engage with our MEP's some kind of representation around this - not to make a big issue of it but clearly the process is less than perfect. I mean, I don't know what people think about this and practically we are experiencing difficulties which are nobody's fault -

some, yes, are our own fault, but I just wonder what you think about this, we talked about this yesterday.

**Maude:**

I just want to say that I agree that maybe we need to do something, say, to Interreg. But on the 28<sup>th</sup> October I am attending a meeting in Birmingham for all the partners in the UK who are running an Interreg IIIC project and one of the aims is actually setting up a network to voice our concerns and problems and on the agenda is the technical support and help from Interreg and auditing is a point on the agenda and I think on behalf of all the lead partners in the UK they are intending to start communicating and see if they can do that. The only thing is it is starting from the UK but I think this is a starting point to voice on behalf of everybody their problems.

**Chairman:**

I think that that should be welcomed, but in addition to that, through whatever channels are available to us, variously, through our own nation states, we should endeavour to make the same kind of noises but also maybe as a circle to make some representation directly as well. The whole process is about learning and best practice and all of that, but also there's some worst practice here from Interreg and we should be telling them. Is everybody happy with that - I am sure you are - okay.

Any other comments on the points that Nick made, the issue about de-commitment and so on and the audit certificates, any comments?

**Male Speaker (Dutch?)**

It's a small comment but it is concerning VAT. I know it goes for other EU member states but there has been a dispute between the Dutch Ministry of Finance and the EU Department of Finance. It came out that the Dutch have to claim including the VAT so that makes us... we can claim faster because.... well, the amount of VAT is about 20% so we will be meeting our ceiling faster - I don't know if it's a problem for you. I explained that when I put in the payment claim, a letter of dispute and what came out. So we are the only one claiming with VAT the others not.

**Nick:**

I think most people seem to be able to recover their VAT. We have spoken about this and you have given me the evidence which is what I needed just to say, that's fine. Whatever rules working within your countries is what we need to comply with but as I say again it's the stricter of your local rules your national rules, the EC rules, so if this is the stricter rule, then that's fine. It does mean that effectively, you have less money, that's a problem for you in terms of meeting your target, yes, it means you have less money and therefore you have to manage that.

In terms of the rules and Interreg. Interreg have been very helpful to us, they are very responsive, so please don't get any impression that they're not or there's a problem, it's not that, they are 'obsessed' may be the right word with spending money fast enough. We are involved in a number of other EC projects and one of them is on Interreg IIIB and each of the

partners has received the letter saying that de-commitment is a serious issue. Now we haven't received that for this project, so it wouldn't surprise me if we actually do, after this, receive such a letter saying this is a serious problem. We will try and deal with it and in terms of Interreg and going back to the matter, there are two issues; one is that two months is just ridiculous, all of you to do your paperwork to be audited to liaise possibly through national bodies, then come back, then come back to me and for me to... two months is just a nonsense and the other issue is to what extent we can build in an expectation of delays in timing. And I actually did that as part of the process and then they told me that the fact that the workshop took place and I had no budget for it didn't stack up and they asked me to put it back again and then what's happened is exactly what I told them would do - that the bills got paid later. Now why they didn't listen to me in the first place... I mean, little old me compared to Interreg... but I was right, again, on this issue. So they are the two issues that I will probably pass back to Interreg to sort out.

**Chairman:**

Okay, everybody happy, well not happy, but we can leave that there. Do you want to turn over the page then Nick?

**Nick:**

Just to give you a brief summary, we are now on this page here. When we report to Interreg we do it in total, all the detail doesn't go to them it's just the details and there are really three pages of finance; one is how we are spending money against staff and administration and experts and travel; the other is that we split the project into three elements; a management element, a management component; a meetings component and a legacy component; and the third is that we do it by partner.

This is the first one which is by expenditure heading, so staff, administration, external expertise, etc. What it shows is in our second column on total budget, what the budgets are for each of those elements. To the end of June we should have spent €155,000 and we spent €81,000 so we are virtually 50% under-spent. But of that €20,000 is because we have incurred expenditure on workshops but because of the timing it is going to be paid in July and therefore has not been eligible and another €40,000 is because of not being able to have the accounts audited. If they are not audited I cannot put them in. So of the variants a vast majority of it we know what the explanations are, so it's not that we are just not spending enough money.

**Chairman:**

Is the reality to all those things that you said, that we are probably on budget.

**Nick:**

I think so, yes. Despite the fact that when we were first putting this together and trying to find the right size of budget to fit what we want to do, some people thought that €23,500 for workshops and legacies wasn't enough, some people thought it was too much and you wouldn't need this sort of sum of money. So we tried to find the right blend and people have to realise that there is only a certain amount of money to go round and I think we are on target to spend that.

**Chairman:**

Is everybody happy with that? We're okay. The figures say one thing but the reality is something else. Okay.

**David Bruce:**

Could I just reinforce that - I suspect you mean particularly by the end of this coming financial period when we had these three workshops and task groups all within one period. We could even be over on the timed budget by the end of this year. I mean there's very much a catch up period at the time which is itself a problem in terms of peak workloads.

**Nick:**

It's a bit in between, yes, because we will catch up on some of the ones that we haven't had but if we have the same problems with audits then we will be in the same position again, but also, I know that Den Bosch's is in December so I suspect there'll be sums from that. I think we'll be there, there or thereabouts.

**Chairman:**

Moving on?

**Nick:**

Over the page, there's a summary by component. There are three key components against which we also explain our progress as part of our reporting forms. You can see on that in terms of Management co-ordination which is mostly Chester's role, is on target, it's the working groups and seminars which include the time and the effort. That's where it happened but that's what I have already explained and I cannot remotely remember why I said that we would spend €3,300 on legacy because we are not even anywhere near it but there you go. So again, just a different explanation for it saying that it's the working groups and seminars. If the audits had happened then I would be able to explain but I think I have already explained that anyway.

Any questions? (*there are none*)

Over the page, rather than going through individuals line by line which I'd actually prefer not to do because there are issues for each individual that I am sure they would like to speak to me about themselves rather than in front of everybody else. I deliberately had a session yesterday, going through everybody's own finances, explaining to them what their budgets were and also what the essential co-ordination ones that Chester was holding but which we would give you to help run your themes.

**Chairman:**

Could we then, I mean it's the politicians here now, could we note what happened yesterday and can we agree that processes for you, Joe, for me and your good self, to agree the process that took place yesterday and further dialogue as appropriate.

Are you happy with that Joe? Say yes (laughing). Okay

*(Inaudible chatter)*

**Nick:**

You will be pleased to know that is actually the end of what I wanted to say.

**Chairman:**

Any questions then to Nick about this bit or indeed anything else or indeed anything other than he has spoken about.

**Male Speaker (Dutch):**

Maybe on behalf of all the partners I would like to say thank you for all the work you have done.

**Chairman:**

This man pinches, every time, what I was going to say.

**Speaker (Italian/Maltese?):**

Sorry, can we skip to item number 7, can we have that put forward, the explanation of good practice, please.

**Charlie (Chester):**

Okay thank you Chairman. I think we have had several productive discussions here over the last couple of days about exactly what we mean by good practice guide and the methodology and approach to actually developing those and certainly thanks to Carlos and Arabarri we now have a standard and consistent methodology that we can apply I think to all of the themes, which in last night's task group session we tested and as we confirmed afterwards, we feel is now robust and we could all go away and work with as a basis for developing our own particular areas. I understand and I know that in terms of the transport work, you have already made significant progress and as I said yesterday, we don't expect now, certainly in the next three weeks, for you to re-visit and revise all of that. So as we agreed, again, I think it would be great if you could continue, progress that work, using the structure that you have agreed to date. But what we may need to do over the next 18 months, is look at that again, as we will with all of the guides as they emerge because this is an iterative process so that at the end by the time we get to the legacy conference we have worked them all into that consistent format. What we will do, after this session, is send out to everybody, a copy of the revised and finally agreed scheme that everybody produced with an explanation as to how that should be applied. One thing that was very positive I think as well yesterday was that Arabarri agreed that they would act as the editors or overall co-ordinators to ensure that when we have drafted each of the theme guides, they do indeed conform to that methodology and to that scheme and that's an extremely valuable piece of work that they have offered to do there.

In addition to that I think everybody now understands what contribution they are going to be making individually to the Spatial Planning theme. If there's any doubt about that then please raise that now or speak to us afterwards. I know Lucca are going to go away and have a look and see whether they can take on their particular issue there but otherwise I would just urge everybody to, if they can given their busy lives, go away and as quickly as possible I think, start to apply the methodology to the issues that they have agreed to take on because the longer that you leave this then the more likely it is that we'll forget (*laughs*) so, I think put it into practice soon and we can make it work.

**Chairman:**

Can this meeting then agree? You're at a disadvantage because you didn't see what it was that was agreed yesterday but for the record I think we need to agree today that process in the way that Charlie's outlined in summary without going into the detail, that the detail will go out, you now have to live it and do it. Everybody's happy with that, clearly because that's what you said yesterday. The politicians are happy, we're always happy, and presumably Charlie as well as sending it out it will be assigned to the minutes of this meeting and Lucca clearly will look at the spatial strategy issue and the other remaining item there with that, you're looking for one place to do something and that could very well be Pecs or Verona. Do we need to record that here also for the record?

**Charlie (Chester):**

I think that will be useful and then we will obviously go away as lead partner and follow that up with them.

**Chairman:**

Okay, everybody happy with that. Can I then go back to 4(a) and I think it's Den Bosch? Anything you wish to say about your task group?

**Male Speaker (Dutch):**

After the first workshop on 25<sup>th</sup> April we had formed a working group and we had a meeting on 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> June, early morning sessions and evening sessions, etc. We also worked out a draft version of the good practice guide and we presented that during these days, but at the workshop we also agreed on a common structure which Charlie mentioned yesterday with the GPG and we now have to re-write our GPG; our Good Practice Guide, and put in the text in the new structure together with the partners response to the questionnaire on the conservation protection enhancement.

Second workshop in Den Bosch, before the second workshop in Den Bosch we will send out this new draft to all partners for comment and we really hope that in spite of all the busy agendas you will all be able to attend the meeting, the second part of the meeting in Den Bosch. Travelling the 16<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> is the meeting and the 18<sup>th</sup> we will all be able to travel back. (*Questions from the floor*) December.

**Maude:**

It's the 15<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>.

**Male Speaker (Dutch):**

We would like to give content to the ‘A’ of Archway, the access and try to focus on other target groups instead of citizens or people from the region, we would try to attract people from outside the region and during those days, during the next meeting we are testing a project and you could be part of this project, so we don’t want to break news now but would like to tell you a little secret; this event is called The Biggest Christmas Star in Europe and Peter is in charge of that but I even heard from Peter that the Guinness Book of Records seemed to have something to do with this event as well, so we please invite you all to come to Den Bosch because this is an event you wouldn’t want to miss.

**Chairman:**

Can I just say to you Den Bosch the European World Walled Town is part of the celebration of that. It’s not much of a secret really but it’s hugely important as well as Archway, so not only will you be going but you may want to take your wife, your lover or somebody else’s wife or lover.

*Pause in recording - Chairman carries on:*

I’m on 4(c).

**Male Speaker (Italian/Maltese?):**

We have been working in the workshops so we all know the current position. We need to materialise the last two day’s discussions and the new scheme and new approach, so a few things can be said at this moment about the progress of our workshop. We are happy of everybody’s contribution to this workshop, we are really grateful to everybody’s work.

**Chairman:**

Can we then record two days of very great success, in the work that has been done in particular on the spatial planning but also the reshaping of process and say to Arabarri and everyone concerned thank you very much for what has been a very, very successful series of workshops and indeed by the time we have finished this, one of the most successful steering groups ever.

*(clapping)*

*Pause in recording Chairman carries on:*

Supporting partners comments - anything to add?

**Male English Speaker:**

This was an opportunity for the supporting partners who were there; Loerrach, Pecs, Verona or the UWE to make any comments.

**New Female Speaker (German):**

Now you already talked with Charlie and Chris about we get some problems some times you know, really want to support this project and really want to contribute as much as we can but there will be a limit for us and just ask for understanding that, yes?

**Chairman:**

But we did say yesterday didn't we; the fingerprint of Loerrach and the work that you have done around this issue - see I was listening - around Spatial Planning is a major contribution to this and that is not to be understated.

**New Female Speaker (German):**

Thank you.

**Male Dutch speaker:**

No one can do more than he can.

**David Bruce:**

I just want to record that I was invited at the last minute to chair the first workshop in Den Bosch, which resulted in the beginnings of the structure, the task group format of working and helped get the project underway and put the themes into the context of the whole project. We have also been involved in contribution to the task groups and in terms of the conservation, I have been able to work with a colleague from a Mexican University on a journal article which now has been accepted for publication by the National Journal of Heritage Studies, we haven't got a date for publication yet but it would be within the period and that fully acknowledges the contribution of this project to that paper.

The final comment which I would just like to make really in terms of the management of the University and the auditing requirements. The auditing requirements are very onerous for a small partner, particularly as we have to go through external audit and in effect we have an internal audit department which doesn't fulfil the rules so we have to go through a double process. I propose to go back and recommend certain procedures to make sure that we can meet the deadlines. What I propose to do in fact is normally close our six months after 5 months so that we have everything to date there and make sure that we have it reported so our December expenditure may not be in but at least you will have the audited version up until the end of November and I think that should help quite a lot.

**Chairman:**

Nick, do you want to comment on that, the last bit in particular? For me as a mere politician, I sometimes actually fog and it isn't always clear, and I know that Nick and you, you experts can see with stunning clarity all the components that make up those budgetary things but for me it's like wandering through a maze and it's difficult quite to see where this stacks up, whether I am going down the right route or not and so on, but any comments?

**Nick:**

That's okay, I thank David for saying that he will go back and try and sort out the issues that they have had. The issue in terms of finishing a month early is something that has been done on other projects and I know for example Den Bosch have done it as well on these projects and that people have because of time issues, actually stopped when they record their payments for their claims early. That means that they therefore have more time to get their audits done, get their claims done, but it does also mean that they have less to spend in their claim. The issue then is which is best to do. If it isn't possible to sort out the problems and to condense the process, then bringing it forward would then be the next solution. So for those people who do struggle and are going to continue struggling, that is one issue that I think they could raise with me.

*(recording pauses)*

**New Speaker (Slovenian):**

Regarding first the workshop from 24<sup>th</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> April 2006, we are preparing provisional arrangements according for the following steps:

First step - the plan town officers have to prepare a draft project paper for the workshop and deadline is end October.

Second step - signature on partner contract with a Touristical College to prepare and organise the workshop - deadline is also end of October; and

Third step - meeting with the academic adviser, David, beginning of November and then the second Piran workshop we confirm the dates from 9<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> October 2006 for the separate grouping.

*(Speaking/general discussion follows confirming the dates)*

**New Speaker (Maltese/Italian?):**

I apologise I haven't been able to take a note of the dates.

**Chairman:**

24<sup>th</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup>. There will be a Steering Group.

**New Speaker (Maltese/Italian?):**

Then perhaps we... I suggest we need extra time for the Workshop because we have to plan the trip back for 26<sup>th</sup>/27<sup>th</sup> so we have the whole day available, we need extra time.

**Chairman:**

Are we saying then would 24<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> be better before. We need to make sure that if it is 24<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> that is because we want everyone to be here. Marc.

*(inaudible general discussion follows regarding the dates)*

If you pencil the dates in now, 24<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> inclusive and then if it is not necessary you can strike it out – don't book your tickets just yet. Right?

*(Pause)*

**Charlie:**

We are now beginning obviously to think about the arrangements for the Legacy Conference at the end of the Project. One of the issues that we have, if I understand it rightly is that the current proposed date for the Legacy Conference is in July of 2007 and the closing date or the end date for the Project is 1<sup>st</sup> September 2007, so after the Legacy Conference we would have very little time left to actually pull together all of the material and finalise it which we will need to do within the lifetime of the Project. So we are going to go back now to Interreg and ask them if we can have an extension of the Project so that it would close later to give us more time to do the work that we would need to do after the conference but we are still proposing that we will hold the Conference in July. We would not be looking to move that. What we are trying to do here is create more time after the Conference to complete everything that needs to be completed.

**Chairman:**

Key issue here is of course that everybody, particularly in France, stops work in August. August is... we all go on holiday, especially in Holland as well. But okay, that's the issue.

**Charlie:**

Yes, it's a combination of things but we are sticking to July for the Conference but looking for more time afterwards to finalise everything and complete the Project.

**Chairman:**

When do you think you will head towards a precise date in July, because Peter and the like would want to book their tickets.

**Charlie:**

We will make sure that we know that a good year in advance I think.

**Chris:**

We will have to actually negotiate with Interreg IIIC I think is the final thing. It's just this pull together thing that Charlie said that I think we will have to negotiate.

**David Bruce:**

In terms of the Legacy Conference; the kind of Conference which we need to achieve, this is really timely now as a starting point for the beginning of the planning process for the Legacy Conference so I think that may have been why there was such advance money in their budget

and so as I must have a particular supporting role on the Legacy Conference and I would hope to be involved in the beginnings of planning for the Conference.

**Chairman:**

And could you keep July free?

**David Bruce:**

I have certainly got July free.

**Charlie:**

We have concentrating up until now in making sure that we get the processes right and that we get the workshops in place and I think that we have made actual progress with that. So yes it is now an opportunity to start thinking about planning the Legacy Conference. Obviously we will involve everybody in those discussions. And what we would like to suggest is that at the next Steering Group we will bring a draft proposal that will set out the kind of approach we think we will take at that Conference so that we can start to share that and have a discussion in advance of the final preparations.

**Chairman:**

So in Piran – that will be there.

Okay, moving on then. Maude, communications and publicity; there is a paper and it says 15 minutes – you’ve got five...

*(recording pauses)*

Have a safe journey see you soon in Malta. Thanks for your contribution.

We are on the last item which is Maude.

**Maude:**

Sorry about this but I can’t do the presentation without the CD ROM because I tried to show you the link of the website.

Well I am going to talk about communication tools. So far we mainly communicated via e-mail and letter. In October we hope that Archway website goes live. The address of the Archway website is Archway/Interreg.com. The reason that we chose this name was actually recognise Archway and Interreg as well and we did a search and there were quite a lot of names actually with Archway on it and we didn’t go for EU because we thought after the Project finishes we want to continue for a while with the website and also we want to give a world wide perspective to Archway and not just limit it to Europe.

The Archway website is still in development and I need to get some help from                      but I will show you how it will look like.

This is what we have done so far – just a home site describing what Archway is about. I will not go in detail because once it is open you can all have access to it and then it is still work in process because we need to do still quite a few things. We have each partner in there with a short description, like for instance here, Chester City Council and then you get a photograph, here is Den Bosch and then once again you get a description and then you get from each part. Now I didn't get enough images so I downloaded some from the Internet and as you can see they are not very good quality so I really need to get some help from everybody.

Also the workshops, that's the part we are going to work on. There will be a password protected part of the website that is accessible for the Archway partners but also for the Walled Town Friendship Circle; they can access this information and that will also be used as an active link where from now on – well, as soon as we go live – everybody can start communicating with each other, so any work you do you can add directly onto the website and that is then accessible. That means you don't have to send then big documents by e-mails anymore, it all will be done via the website. But that's something we are working on.

The next thing is the links. We started just first of all just all the partner links, but what we also were looking for, if you go down here, I start to look at all the themes and try to see what kind of links there are. For instance, transport, you see Cheshire County Council and National Cycle Network, but I would like to gather if possible from each country and I have sent out quite a while ago a document saying this is my proposal asking everybody can you please provide me with links with suggestions and I must say I didn't get anything back as yet.

**Chairman:**

Let's pause there because, if that says simply Planning UK, that is a fundamental weakness in the website so it is incumbent upon us all really to provide the kind of links that do exist in our own towns and our own countries and that really becomes quite an urgent issue because Interreg want this kind of communication, but if we are going to communicate then we need to do it meaningfully and comprehensively. Which I think is what Maude is saying, so if we could please undertake to do that, whether they are relevant or not, it is better to have things that are not relevant than to have them, better to have them if they were relevant. Okay.

**Maude:**

Because also, one of the other things that have is like a partner forming experience and I prove that of the bits and also from the other bits where we have been working. Why I am doing that is also to show Interreg that we are experienced in the parts but also that we try to continue to work together because for example Den Bosch and Chester have had a successful Live Environment bit and it still needs to be added on to this but that also shows the world that we are still continuing with the work we are doing it's not just Archway but we are going beyond that. So promoting ourselves as a group of excellence.

**Chairman:**

Can I say from the Circle's point of view that it is hugely important because one of the benefits of the Circle is in fact the network and the fact that they are doing other things with other towns within and without the Circle is really very, very important.

**Maude:**

So, just to recap we are still working on the interactive site. The workshop related to info, like we can't have enough questionnaires and speeches. We will have a password protected area and we are going to install a hit counter to see how many hits we are getting outside just our partnership. That's also why it is very important that I get whatever you do, say the speeches or anything related to the workshops, but also talking about press releases; we did ask before in the last Steering Group meeting if we could get copies of the newspapers. What we would like to do is actually scan them and also put on the heading 'Press Release' so that we can keep track ourselves where we can and if Interreg comes, gives our proof that we are doing a press release. At the moment we say, "Well we believe everybody has been doing publications but we can't give you anything in vital hard copy".

**Chris(?):**

This is a particularly important thing here. Interreg are very, very keen on you demonstrating proof that you are actually disseminating information.

**Chairman:**

Can we then commit to that? I want to make a comment – I actually think to have a hit counter to use a technical expression is naff. We need the information for our own purposes, it does not need to be on the screen. More and more now, people sites. Now you may have had technical advice to the contrary. We need the information but people do not need to see it.

**Maude:**

Yes, but I am just saying that we are going to do it because we have in the bit on the dissemination and publications it says: "How many hits did you have on the Website?" So it is for us important that we can check it and so because it is an objective and outcome.

**Chairman:**

What I am actually saying is: it does not need to be on the screen.

**Maude:**

No, that's fine.

So for the moment, what I earlier said, the information I need from partners are links, EU funded experience and jpeg images of towns. Once everything goes live I will send an e-mail which will just recap and a reminder of what I need.

So, so far we have the Website, the Archway brochure that we can start using. Just recapping the communication problems in general is that I find that is actually non-response, that means I am sending out e-mails, I know people receive it but I don't get a reaction back, or we get very late response, partial information and I think that's maybe to do with communications, sometimes things have been requested, like four or five questions in one e-mail but only one question is actually answered and it does cause problems that give delays and I have noted

that in some cases I am still not included in e-mails and we did advise this before. It is very important that you keep me in the loop because we are all working together and we can't work together if you leave me out because I am the one who oversees everything. Chris is very busy, he is not always there, his mailbox is sometimes full as well and it does happen then that we don't get the communication and it does cause problems. Also if, say, for agenda points, if somebody communicates directly to the partner and don't get what they want and we are not aware what is going on, we are not able to help you.

**Chairman:**

Let's agree, and record it – you're doing the minutes! – that we will include Maude in everything that we do. Okay?

**Maude:**

Yes, because the next point is communication solutions. It will be nice if you can acknowledge us if you have received a request. Even if you just say because I know that people are saying: "Seen your mail, can't deal with it now, come back later on". That's all we need because then at least we know because we have had, and especially in holiday periods and that's the next point, let us know if you are away for a longer period or pass on an alternative contact in case of holidays. Because now with the claim forms we did have problems because people were away for 6 weeks and we didn't know who to contact. So we need to get names or substitutes or tell us: "I am away".

Try to respond promptly, I know sometimes we are being seen as pestering you with information and requests but we are doing it for a reason; either we are having a deadline for a workshop; we need to reply to Interreg, like in cases of the claims, I sent out a form to ask on behalf of Interreg when claim forms were submitted to auditors, and I didn't get from everybody a response and it looks really bad to Interreg because we lose face in front of them but it is not our faults and we don't want to say: "Actually, partners are not communicating to us". We would rather take the blame and say like: "We are still working on it" than saying: "Well, we don't get a response from the partner". It just doesn't look good.

Also try to copy me in in all the e-mails if possible.

**Chairman:**

Can we just agree those issues that were raised there and additionally, before you go on holiday you must as Maude can you go! She wasn't quite saying that!

There is something else that occurs to me. That we all, from our various websites, should be linking to this and additionally there's a link to the walled town website as well. One other suggestion; in there you showed that URL's, http, there, you need to change that; it just needs to be links and it should say "Den Bosch", "Chester" etc.

**Maude:**

What we are saying is it is still work in progress and we need to define it but we can't do these things wi.....

**Dutch Male Speaker?:**

I think important is that you always use the European logo.

*(inaudible conversation follows)*

**Maude:**

Actually, I am not finished yet. I just want to say quickly because I have sent out to everybody the publication guidelines. I will send it again, but it says exactly what everybody should be doing so. There is one thing, at the back of my handout, the one I gave, it says also what you should be adding in for the publication. There's an article that I wrote with some researchers a few years ago in relation to communication. It's a nice read on your way back. But it maybe tells you where I am coming from and where all the networks experience the same problems and that the lack of communication and also the way you work as a network is sometimes where problems come from so it would be nice if you can read it and maybe understand where we are coming from and how we can improve as a network to communicate better with each other.

**Chairman:**

Could we undertake to read it – you don't have to read it on the way back but do read it please.

Can we thank Maude very much for that.

*(Clapping)*

I am sorry we are rushing you with Peter but we do have to go.

**Pieter:**

You missed an important moment, unfortunately. You missed Antaniano. It's the smallest walled-town we tried here and tried to arrange of course to support the circle so I got here the business card of \_\_\_\_\_ and I have a special present for *(inaudible)*

**Chairman:**

Let me just tell you, we have Chien in China, which is the world's largest walled town I guess, a population in excess of a million – what I was wanting to do was put these two places together maybe in some way. So, before they go, Have a safe journey home to all of you. Thank you very much for the cracking good work that you have done these last few days. Where ever you go, go safely, if you are staying, enjoy the rest of your stay. If you are going somewhere else, as I know Marc is, enjoy your trip to the \_\_\_\_\_ and wherever you are going and we will see you very soon.

One last thing – money – I can tell you that I am meeting with the Maryland Bank of North America in November, that is the Bank of America, really, they have now been taken over and hopefully - please God, let it happen – we may, MAY, get a substantial sponsor – I hope.

Nice seeing you again.

**New Speaker (Carlos):**

I propose to take a walk and see what Sebastian showed you yesterday about the solution of transition between the historic town and advancement? Then at 11.30 we get back here and have lunch. You agree, you can leave everything here, keep your cards for security.

(\*\*END OF TAPE STEERING GROUP \*\*)

*Tape 129 begins (CD1)*

*(Opening speech in Spanish)*

**Charlie (Chester):**

Thank you Carlos. I will try and make this as quick as I can because I am aware we need to get through a lot this morning, but just before we start I think, David, you had in mind a couple of questions that perhaps you thought it would be useful that we all considered as we look at each other's presentations during the course of the morning.

**David:**

Thank you Charlie, yes, I have just identified two general questions which we can use to think about as we hear the responses to all the individual questions and all the different towns. The first one is here, "What have walled towns to gain from spatial planning?" It's a general question, if we can think about that one. The second one is "What has the experience of walled towns, that's all our examples of good practice, to offer for wider spatial development?", i.e. what are we giving back to the process of Interreg and the process of the European Spatial Development perspective on a local and a territorial regional scale. I think these two questions will form a purpose for the Good Practice Guide and I am sure that the data which we have gathered through the questionnaires and the discussion today and the accent 5.36 papers which were presented yesterday will allow the Good Practice Guide on this theme to address these questions and therefore achieve the project requirements.

Thank you.

**Charlie (Chester):**

A very quick overview of spatial planning in Chester.... What I want to do, very briefly, is just start out by looking at the context, looking at the geography of Chester and the way that it has developed over time and also establish the policy framework from the national level right the way down to the local level to give you an understanding of the context within which we are trying to tackle a lot of our planning issues.

I know I have mentioned history, what I really want to do there is not look back through ancient history but concentrate more on how the modern spatial planning system and processes have been applied over the last 40 or 50 years or so. Then have a look at what we are doing today, particularly in terms of how we go about applying our planning policies and

principles in practice, very briefly, to have a look at some of the product of that, what we have actually managed to achieve very recently. Focussing particularly on the transitional area between the urban core, the historic urban core and the outer suburban areas of the city. Then think a little bit about some of the lessons that we have learnt from the way in which we have been working in the recent past before just looking forward a little into the future and trying to identify some of the challenges which we, certainly in Chester, face and I suspect will be the issues as well which will be familiar to others.

So where is Chester? Well, it's in the very far south western corner of the North West of England. The North West of England as a whole, is the region which is recognised by central government as being the basis for spatial planning at the regional level. There is a population of about 7 or 8 million across the whole of the North West region and Chester itself has a population of about 120,000. The North West region is really dominated by and gets its identity from its industrial past and the focus of an awful lot of regional policy is very much upon the metropolitan areas which are really in that band of green there (*assume pointing to OHP*) which is very built-up traditionally industrialised area which has a lot of problems and where an awful lot of the economic focus in the North West is. And Chester to some extent, has become peripheral to that and there are many tensions between a regional agenda which is seeking to regenerate the industrial areas and our own aspirations which are to continue to sustain our economy and build upon our own historic past.

(*Pointing at OHP*) This is Chester district in a little more detail and you can see here that it sits... this is the City of Chester here... which sits in an area right between Liverpool and Merseyside, just to the north, Manchester which is over here to the east and, critically for us, North Wales and this boundary here is actually the national boundary with Wales and that presents itself some interesting challenges for us. There are different planning systems, different systems of Public Sector intervention on this side of the border from this side and yet the boundary comes right into the edge of the urban area of our city. The city itself sits on a river, the River Dee, this is the estuary of the River Dee and the river is actually tidal all the way up here into the heart of the city. Chester originally was a Port. It was a Port that sat on a critical point on a boundary with the Celtic areas of ancient Britain and the Romans settled here, partly because of its relationship with the river and sea and partly because it was in an ideal location for a fortification, really at the edge of their empire. It was the Romans who really gave Chester its character today.

The district of Chester actually sits within a county which extends right the way across there to the east, called Chester, and for administrative purposes, traditionally, Chester has been the area where sub-regional planning has taken place, but that is all changing at the moment and I will explain a bit more about that to you in a minute. The city itself is at the centre of a very important economic sub-region. Each of those red circles represents a major location for business investments and employment and many of the areas on the outer edge here have a history of industry and in the 1970's and 1980's suffered from significant economic decline but in the last 20 years they have grown very rapidly and in many ways have counteracted a global trend. They are still very strong in terms of manufacturing and are growing all the time. But Chester's role within that sub-region is very much as it has been for many years, perhaps, 2000 years, it is the administrative and service centre for the outlying industrial inter-land and the urban core, the centre of the city is really the focus of that. Again, looking at the district in a little more detail, this is the urban area of Chester and right at the heart of that you can see the historic core, and we will look at that in more detail in a minute. But we mustn't forget that the city itself is surrounded by an extensive rural inter-land with many smaller

villages, small settlements, clustered along the key radial routes that radiate out from the city in the north, south, east and westerly direction and which follow the traditional routes established originally by the Romans. Most of the rural area of Chester is heavily protected and is delineated as green belt and in fact the rural areas extend right the way into the urban areas, there are fingers of green which go right into the heart of the city centre and that's one of the things which gives the city its special character. The urban area is also quite compact and again that is one of the characteristics which we seek to preserve. So coming down again into the urban core, this is the historic core of the city delineated mainly by the wall, but also by the river, which extends here to the south, wraps around the west of the city and then runs off out here into North Wales. That in itself provides a sort of outer barrier, an outer boundary beyond the core of the historic walls. Traditionally and originally the city was established within this historic core and that core remained the focus of market activity, business activity, from Roman times throughout the Medieval period. But Chester, because partly of its situation on the river and also because of the advent of the canal system which emerged in the late 18<sup>th</sup> Century, did develop some industry and has a legacy of 19<sup>th</sup> Century industrial development around the periphery of the inner urban core. Beyond that, in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, the city expanded in several directions into what were increasingly suburban areas which were gradually encroaching onto the open countryside and because of the constraints of meeting our requirements for development within the core, and because also of the barrier and the problems that were associated with the industrial and transitional area here, we had to look outwards. So you will see here an area which is one single housing development of about 18,000 people which was developed in the 1940's and early 1950's which has actually created some significant problems, there is a sort of exclusion of this community from the rest of the city which is a major issue for us. In many ways the walls around the historic core, the successful core, are both a physical and symbolic manifestation of that.

So just very quickly, where are we now, what's happened to us over the last 10-20 years? Well, we have grown economically very, very fast and we believe that we will continue to do so, we think that probably up to maybe 30,000 further jobs will be created in the next 5-10 years in Chester and its immediate inter-land. And one of the reasons for that is because of the attractiveness of Chester as a historic centre to global capital, to put loose capital 16.38, we have been very successful in attracting inward investment from a range of companies and they have made it very clear to us that one of the reasons they wanted to come to Chester was because of our historical associations and the quality of our environment. So one of the challenges for us is to continue to sustain that economic growth but to protect those things which make us so special. In other words not to kill the goose that laid the golden egg as we would say in England.

We are also a very important visitor destination, we estimate that we have about 8½ million visitors per year, many of whom come from overseas, and about 20% of the population work in the tourism industry. In addition to that we are within the top 10 national destinations for shopping and retailing, which is something which, given our size, is quite surprising to many people. We have very low unemployment levels, but because of the constraints on our capacity to accommodate population growth, we are now beginning to see problems with shortages workism 17.46 and shortages of skills. Another major issue for us, partly because of our economic success and our parallel constraints, are increasing problems with affordable housing, people simply cannot afford to buy homes in the city or particularly the rural areas either at the moment. We have all of the usual transport and access constraints also, both within the city but also between it and other areas. Not only are the walls to some extent a constraint to us and the river, but we have areas of the city which are within flood

planes and where we need to avoid development, we are surrounded by green-belt and we have this historical legacy of derelict and contaminated industrial sites.

So, that's a little bit about who we are and where we are at the moment. Before I go along to say how we are trying to tackle those issues, just very quickly, to explain the policy context and the British Planning System, at the national level the Government issues guidance and also passes legislation which really sets out the broad approach to planning, spatial planning and conservation across the UK, but at the moment we do not have a national spatial plan so this is very much broad policy and general guidance. At the regional level we traditionally had a similar form of guidance, we had regional guidance, it did not set out spatially and physically what we are trying to achieve within the North West of England. But that has changed and we are now in a situation at the moment where regional Spatial Strategy is being developed for the North West, this will be the first time that we have had that across the north. And it is very important for us in Chester that we can influence that Spatial Strategy and ensure that our interests as a historic city in an area which, as I said, is very much dominated by bigger, metropolitan, former industrial centres, that our interests are protected. We have a structure of sub-regional plans, again, in the past in the post war period, they were in the form of County Structure Plans, but under recent legislation those plans have actually been abolished. So all we are left with under the new system is National Guidance, a Regional Spatial Strategy and then Local Plans which will deal with issues at the very local level. We in Chester believe that there is a need for a Sub-Regional Plan. Our approach to that has been to take the opportunity within this vacuum to define our own sub-region. The County that we had previously was based upon historic administrative arrangements and boundaries but did not reflect real patterns of the economy, patterns of travel, patterns of living, so we are now working with our neighbouring authorities across the border in North Wales, where we believe our real sub-region is, to develop our own Sub-Regional Plan. And by doing that, that will enable us to strengthen our position and inform Regional Strategy as well. We then have Local Plans and Local Development Frameworks which set out in detail exactly how much development we believe we should have in Chester, where that should go and establish the qualitative policies which determine what the development should look like and in particular identifies areas for opportunity, areas for growth, but also areas for conservation and sets out in some detail how we should seek to conserve and enhance our historic fabric and our natural environment. Finally we complement those legal and statutory plans with more detailed development briefs, master plans and detailed guidance, some of which applies to particular parts of the city, other of which is more generic and sets out our approach to things like archaeology, listed buildings, or nature conservation, but this is only guidance and it does not have the full statutory weight of the local plans themselves.

So how have we applied work within the planning frameworks to actually seek to influence the urban form of the city; I have already talked a bit about how the city has developed physically, but one of the key characteristics and what one of the constraining factors of the city, is very much the green-belt which extends right into the heart of the city which means we cannot extend any further out into the rural areas. In the 1960's and 70's that was established and at the same time a recognition of the importance of the historic core was realised and the whole concept of conservation emerged in a big way, but paradoxically, whilst we were starting to protect the natural environment and value the historic fabric, we were also undertaking some fairly damaging urban planning and interventions in the form of very crude highways schemes, the creation of an inner ring-road which cut through the wall in some places, and provided even more severance between the historic core and the areas around it. Also some fairly insensitive demolition and clearance, rather than renovation, and

at the same time there was a degree of economic stagnation. So this was not a good time for the city really.

In the 1980's there was some suburban expansion and this was a time when we started to realise that if we wanted to tackle the economic problems, we needed to accommodate some of the emerging modern facilities, which simply couldn't be fitted into the historic core. So we had some peripheral business parks and retail parks developed but they did bring with them the investment that we then needed which we could divert back into the enhancement of the city centre. The focus then became much more upon renewal and renovation, at the same time the older industrial areas were declining and that threw up in a way some opportunities because in places where we were unable to develop in the past, because of the legacy of derelict buildings and land, we found that we had new capacity, new places, new buildings, new land, that would enable us to develop and meet our needs without further encroaching into the open countryside and without damaging the historic core and in the last five years or so, our focus has been very much upon those areas. In all of that, in terms of what we are trying to achieve, we really have some primary aims; they are to continue to sustain economic prosperity; to tackle social inclusion issues so that everybody can benefit from that growth because there are communities who have missed out on that; but at the same time to preserve what is unique about Chester and put a strong focus on local distinctiveness. Clearly, sustainable development is important to us, there has been a much greater focus on higher density development and that's given us an opportunity to look at mending some of the wounds, some of the damage that was done through insensitive interventions in the past, to promote quality design, both in terms of respecting the historic context, but also to be bold and radical and not to turn away from the promotion of contemporary architecture. To promote mixed use; in the past there was a tendency to zone uses and separate uses. Now we look very much to integrate homes, jobs, shopping, leisure, all those things, within individual developments as well as within communities and to integrate physical development with the wider social, cultural and environmental agenda, and, critically, to involve local communities in all of that. The way in which we have tried to do that, first of all, is to ensure that we have a real understanding of the dynamics of the area, to collect comprehensive evidence and then for that to inform our plan-led approach. But we do not just use plans to control development and to stop things happening, we see them as a positive tool and a tool for saying what we want but also how we want to achieve that and for going out and proactively promoting opportunity as well identifying needs of constraints. To use resources creatively, to use our own land, as well as ensuring that development pays out of its profits for public benefit, for working together in multi-disciplinary teams, bringing together highways engineers, people from the health sector, planners, architects, archaeologists, together into one place to tackle these issues holistically and to work across traditional boundaries.

Very, very quickly, just to show the area that we have really been focussing on, the historic core of the city is in here within the inner ring road and within the walls. The peripheral area which we are now focussing on and which is meeting most of our development needs, probably for the next 10-15 years is in all of the areas which have those coloured lines around them. Here is the railway station and the old railway lines, the railway infrastructure, the canal runs along here. So this is the area where, in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century, industry was focussed and where most of the opportunities now lie for regeneration and re-development. In tackling those areas we have been very keen to establish exactly what our aims and objectives are and to understand the spatial dynamics of those areas and most importantly to overcome the barriers and the severance of those areas from the city centre and re-connect them with the urban core because over the years they have become very detached. So looking at where the

key development opportunities are, looking at where the key routes and corridors are, again, looking in detail at where the connections are, where we have opportunities to create permeability, to overcome barriers, to tame the road system, to get through the walls at times and along the canals and use the canals and the walls and the river as access opportunities as well as barriers. Critically as well, in a very compact urban area, to ensure not only that we provide open space and green space, but that we identify the network of spaces and the connections between them so that the new communities that we are developing have opportunities therefore for leisure and recreation and some green lungs within the heart of the city. And also to think about how we actually fill the gaps in the urban fabric that have been produced over the years and identify the kind of urban form that we want to create and in particular create new and active frontages and mend some of the rather denigrated environment that we have.

This is just a plan which shows all of the developments sites which are now coming forward within that area. The city walls are here... and all this development is happening on the edge of them. Every single one of those sites is currently either being developed or has a permission to come forward in the next two years. And it's delivering an awful lot of benefits and I won't go through all of those but you can see there's a whole range of things from homes, workspaces, new offices for our own council. Many hundreds of millions of pounds worth of private sector investment which is being 30.00 by the Public Sector and one thing which I think not many cities are probably delivering in their hearts, which is stables for race horses, we have a racecourse right in the middle of the city and we are very proud of that.

So here, just some very quick examples of how we are doing that, which illustrates some of our .... the way we are meeting our aspirations both in terms of usage but also in terms of style. Here along the canal corridor, which was traditionally an area which was occupied by warehouses and industrial units, these are actually new buildings; they are brand new buildings but they are designed very much in the style of that 19<sup>th</sup> Century industrial architecture and it includes an integration of apartments, many of which are affordable and you cannot tell the difference between the affordable housing and the market housing.

In a very similar area, not very far away from that, some more contemporary use of the space, again with a mixture of work space, homes and apartments and just over the canal from there the refurbishment of original 19<sup>th</sup> Century buildings, again for a mixture of work space, leisure space and homes and flats and apartments.

Here you can see a slightly different style of design, drawing upon our medieval references derived really from the historic core. This is a scheme which is specifically designed for older people and has all of the support services integrated within it and it is in a street which was outside, traditionally outside, the urban core, but which has suffered many problems in recent times in terms of decline but also you can see traffic congestion and there really is an example of some of the worst interventions in the 1960's and 70's, which we are now trying to overcome and using these developments to pay for new crossings and traffic calming.

There's an example of a rather bolder form of architecture, that will be our new offices to be built in about two years' time. The walls are just here behind these houses. This building is very controversial, but it actually draws its references from the shape of some of the original Roman stones within the wall. It's all glass - some people like it, some people don't - we think it reflects some of the historic references. It literally reflects it, actually, because it's

glass, but some people think that it's a very alien intervention but we are determined that we don't turn Chester into a museum, that we actually leave a legacy for future generations.

Again, an example of a scheme which is coming forward soon, which is using the canal and actually creating new canal basins as a focus for contemporary development.

Important to us as well is the creation of green spaces and quality green spaces, particularly around the wall and all of these spaces which have been improved and upgraded using money from new developments lie on the periphery of the wall and create almost a green moat around the wall for the enjoyment of local residents but also visitors and others and provide a setting for the walls and this, again, drawing on the references from the history of the canals. Again, this is a point where the river meets the canal right on the edge of the wall where the original Roman Port was and this is a scheme which integrates housing for young people with training opportunities but also for deaf people so trying to integrate social aspirations into the physical fabric.

This is an interesting scheme and this is the last one I am going to show you. This is actually inside the wall although a lot of the focus has been on the outside, there are areas within the walls which were really obliterated in the 1960's and 70's by very crude, rather poor quality, modernist interventions and here we are going to regenerate and rebuild one quarter of the original walled city to create new shops, theatre, livery, homes, bus station, deriving its style from our unique two-storey medieval rows, as we call them, shopping centre, but a very modern interpretation of that by Michael Hopkins Associates, who are a well known international firm of architects.

So there are some of the lessons learnt, I have already talked about those really in terms of the methodology used, but I would say the most important thing for us really has been being flexible and proactive within the context, although a clear vision and a clear framework which establishes the kind of parameters for development. Using resources, using our powers to facilitate and enable the market to develop areas which in the past it may not have done and we have been lucky in some ways that we have had that economic investment to enable us to achieve this and in the future, in terms of our challenges, well we need to sustain that, we still have large areas to regenerate, we have an economy that we want to sustain and we need to provide homes for people coming to work into the city. We need to find further potential, further capacity within the city and that is something that we are working on at the moment, exploring every inch really of the urban area to see where we could accommodate new uses. We need to influence that sub-regional and regional policy to ensure that it doesn't hamper our growth.

Housing and affordability is a major issue for us and finding new ways of tackling that is critical, as is design quality which we talked about and partnership and engagement; working with people, dealing with this holistically and one of the really important challenges which we are now faced with is that once we have developed the city in this phase, how do we manage it and how do we maintain it and how do we ensure that in a thousand years' time it will be somewhere that people want to preserve for the future and for their generation also.

Thank you.


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

*(Spanish speaking)*

Dutch Speaker:

During the presentation of you, Charlie, many of the objectives you mentioned for Chester you pointed out also go for Den Bosch as well so it's very difficult for me to add something to that except for the stables of course, which we are not planning to do! But we might of course with Pieter.

My presentation is more focussed on the historic core of the city and is divided into past, present and future. The past about the settlement; how the city grew. The present; the problems we are facing and coping with and the future; strategies we developed to tackle these problems and I will also show you some best practices and projects we recently realised.

The early settlements in the vicinity of Den Bosch date from Roman era, there was a temple outside of the city but around 1100 the first settlement was at the place where is now the Market Square and the city was at the mooring of two rivers, the  River and the Dommel River where the two rivers merge into the Maas River. There was a sand ridge in this delta with very strategic value and the Duke of Brabant he considered this of very strategic value with his capital in Brussels and gave the people of Den Bosch about 1200 the rights to establish a city and because of this location, strategic location at the northern border of his duchy and the first walls conceived only the current Market Square and surrounding housing and in the middle ages the city grew tremendously. The first walled town was about 10 acres and the second wall consisted ten times more, it was 100 acres in size and showing the fast growth of the population at 14<sup>th</sup> Century.

This picture shows the 17<sup>th</sup> Century outline of the city with a lot of water around the city and that was used to protect the city. After the invention of gun powder and cannons of course, the city towers and rounds  were topped down and earth and city garbage was used to reinforce the walls from the inside. The fortifications at that time changed radically from a vertical structure to a horizontal structure. The position of Den Bosch is a comprehensive structure of  bullwalks, dykes and  -ation 42.03 area about 10km outside of the walled town and after the walls.... sorry I am just going back to this picture again.... here you see at the left side you see the water that would be used to defend the city on the left side there is just a problem of flooding that we are going to have to deal with in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century. Even quite recently, 10 years ago, the A2 motorway was flooded and was a major economic problem to the city and to the region. After the walls lost their defence function, walls could be knocked down and many walled towns of course were actually knocked down, but the city was obliged to knock the walls down by the Fortification Act that is a Dutch Act that dates from 1874. Six wards were forced to demolish their walls for hygienic reasons and to give space to traffic and new development. For a medium sized Dutch city with 135,000 inhabitants, it is very rare we still have a complete structure of walls around the city. The reason lies in the fact that the city is located in this delta surrounded by marshland. At times of heavy rainfall as the previous pictures show, the city has to be protected and had to be protected from flooding so the walls have an important water bearing function and therefore the walls have to be protected.

Now looking at the present. In the year 1996 great parts of our walls were in a very poor state of repair and the city was facing a big problem relating to insufficient resources to tackle this major restoration project. Actually we did not start with developing the spatial plan, but we

more or less came across it. The strengths of our approach as it came out in the end is that we chose for a very broad approach facing the restoration problem and turning this problem into a development opportunity. We sought and also found combinations between cultural history to urban development and new functions enhanced modern architecture.

This picture shows what we tried to do with our restoration plan. To, as Charlie said, to mend the wounds that have been done in time and in previous time, to make clear again the difference that the walls meant in previous time. It meant the difference of life and death. That's not what we are going to do again, of course, but it meant a great difference inside the wall you were safe, outside, you were not, but inside there was also a lot of smell and outside not, so the inside you had to pay a lot of tax, outside you don't have to, so there was a big difference. We don't want to create that difference again, but other differences. We want to make clear again where the historic borders are, the differences between density, between old and new, between city and rural area. So that's what this picture, this drawing, shows. And in our restoration development plan a lot of objectives are coming back. First of all, and that's where we started from, the restoration issue. It's a major task to restore the walls, some part of the wall is also part of the inner city circle, so 17,000 people per day are driving on the wall so if part of the wall would collapse, would fall down, then we really would have a problem. And the other element is that we use our history, cultural history, as a point of departure from our plan. So first we start excavating and then we use the results of the excavations as inspiration for our plans. That was also different from the approach we used previously. In previous times we designed plans, then started carrying them out and then excavations had to be done and we came across that there was something in the soil that we had to do something about or not.

Urban development is also an important aspect in our development plan. What Charlie said earlier, he tried to mend things that were done in previous times that we don't like anymore, as I mentioned before, water management is an important aspect, we have to keep the water outside of the city, we also want to improve the quality of the water and from an ecology point of view. We also try to enhance tourism and leisure activities around the city and I would like to show you some examples of our approach.

This is the Medieval Water Gate called Groote Hekel, on the right hand side is the picture as it was in the year 1995, a very derelict water gate and it was restored in 1999. It was the first project from our projects in the development plan. The two exterior walls you can walk on top of the walls but to really experience the height of the wall and the defensive function you have to get people on the outside of the wall to where they can see how high they are, how wide the moat is, so we designed a plan of a footpath around the city on top of the walls to create a fortification boulevard, as we call it, with a beautiful vista to the former free field of fire around the city and a footpath on the lower side of the ramparts where you can face the wall and Vugterstuw 49.32. Part of that project is realising, you can see on the picture here, where we realised a path on the Dommel River a bridge, a footbridge, a footpath, over an island so it is part of this footpath connection, this footpath outlay completely around the historic core. Another part of this is that we want to enhance the flora, the rare plants and elements that are on the wall, so in restoration in previous times we restored, but actually we did not restore we re-constructed, we took down the wall stone by stone and then building it up again but as we did then in previous times we also demolished the nature, so the flora and fauna on the wall and near the wall. That's what we don't want to do nowadays, we want to protect these plants and elements so we looked and also found a technique in which we could reinforce the wall with respect to rare plants and animals.

Another aspect is that we want to give space to modern architecture. At some places our historic core is not visible again because parts have been demolished or it's not accessible. On the left side of the picture is a place where pedestrians could not walk along the walls because the footpath was too narrow and we, well it's obvious, a new addition, a balcony hanging on the wall and you can walk along and our idea is that if we add new elements to the fortifications then these elements should be from today, not historically looking as it was in the 17<sup>th</sup> Century but it should be with elements and architecture from today. Right picture is a connection between the inner city canal system and the moat, the Dommel River and is also designed in a modern architecture with respect to the history.

This is a picture taken in 1956 of a bastion, but I really have to tell you that this is a bastion because if I tell you it's just a garden wall in a public park you would also believe me. We are going to change this bastion and make it clear again for the citizens that it's a defensive structure by making a moat on the outside and by bringing back earth on the top of the wall. Also using modern architecture, also with respect to the trees that in time have grown there and we don't want to cut down these beautiful trees but they haven't been there and they have no defensive function of course and we want to keep them.

After this the big development plan, which we pointed out all the ideas, we also made detailed development plans and the second development or detailed development plan is about the west walled section on the west side of the city. On the right hand side you see the part of a historic map showing the ramparts and the bullwalks on the outside and to defend the city and on the bigger picture you see the situation as it is today. It's a 19<sup>th</sup> Century canal zone, quite a dull profile, a lot of green, but not very interesting. We think we can make it more interesting by showing parts of the history again. This is the past, present and future drawing of this west walled section. On the bottom the past with the bullwalks and the old defensive structures, on the middle part is the present situation, one part of the wall on the right hand side is there but all the other parts of the wall are covered with soil. We can bring parts of this history back again with integration and with solving problems that we have that we are dealing with in our city. These are some examples. We are going to make a connection under a bridge, it's very difficult to cross this bridge as a pedestrian and as a simple solution a pedestrian bridge under an existing bridge we are going to continue these footpaths along the fortifications. Another example is that we are combining a problem and finding a solution in the historic setting. It's a project which was recently granted and then the life environment front in which we work closely together with Chester and London, in times of heavy rainfall the water from the public sewerage system goes to the Dommel River so the river gets polluted by sewage and we don't want to have that so therefore to find a solution we built water calamity storage tanks. With these calamity storage tanks require a lot of space and in an historic fabric in an inner city it is very difficult to find space for these big underground tanks. We can at the West side bring back or restore part, not completely, but a part of an historic bullwalk, the Bastion Maria, and we are going to restore it combining it with this underground calamity storage tank. So we are bringing back a little bit of the history but giving it also a function of today.

The last example is a project that we are still working on which has not been realised but it is one of the major projects also from a urban planning point of view. In order to cars out of the inner city and to give public places and spaces to get cars out of those public spaces we have to build car parks in this on the left hand picture you see a top view of an existing park space and on that very location we want to build a car park with 1100 places to park your car but we also want to make history visible at the end by bringing back the moat on that spot. So we

want to build this car park under the moat and by doing so, if you get out of the car park and the left hand on the bottom picture shows you an idea how you can come out of the car park and walk on the water. If you get out of the car park you can cross and get inside the city on the medieval level, not on the level of today but on the medieval level, that is about three metres lower than the level of today and this enables us to show the medieval history of the city as is shown on the other pictures. On the inside you can see the medieval view of a fortified wall. And in 2001 we were happy to be awarded as a national example of best practice of the combination we found from restoration to all the other elements I have tried to point out. If we can make the historic core more interesting again make it into a public park 6.5km in length then we can solve a lot of problems. One problem is that there is a lot of tension on the inner city. We have about 15 million visitors coming to Den Bosch every year but they only come to a very specific location in the inner city, to the shopping area, to the theatres and if we can make the historic border interesting again we can spread these visitors more evenly over the inner city, hence, we can enlarge our city without really making it bigger. And the other aspect is that if we have an interesting green and leisure zone along the historic city we can extract 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> Century around our city and what is very specific for those areas is that there is a lack of green space so we can use it as a connecting zone between this 19<sup>th</sup>/20<sup>th</sup> Century development and the historic city.

To conclude the presentation, we would like to mention that our walled towns are not limited to the historic core of our city but consist of many military and historic artefacts in the region and this gives us a great opportunity to collaborate with other smaller communities around our city. Military estuary is an important asset to re-development. In this respect, urban and rural area could closely work together; in the year 2003 we made a start with an original project in which we cooperate with seven other smaller communities around our city. In redevelopment we call it the position of 's-Hertogenbosch and this picture shows an even larger project. We recently launched, with many organisations along a historic defence structure the southern waterline, this was a defence structure to defend the southern part of Holland in the 17<sup>th</sup> Century and I think this structure could also fit or be fitted in European corporation projects and I am very much interested in other European initiatives in the development of defence lines, so please let me know if you have any good ideas in defence lines or combinations of that.

So to conclude, different from Chester, we started from a different departure; we started from a restoration issue and it changed into a development opportunity and of course there is a national spatial plan, a regional spatial plan and we developed this local spatial plan. The city has its own responsibility in that so we have a lot of autonomy to develop these kind of projects.

Okay I think that's enough.

*(Spanish Speaking)*

**Victor:**

Our presentation is going to be slightly different in that I think I didn't understand what was really expected of us so what I will do is I have a series of images which I leave this one on the board and I can explain, give a short run-down, of our planning system then go through the various areas through the images later on. Basically we have a very short planning history in that our planning policy really started in 1992. Before that we had a very rudimentary

system which was loosely based on a land-use one. Then in 1992 we developed a comprehensive planning system loosely based on the English planning system, the Development Planning Guide in 1992 and the establishment of a Planning Authority regulating development throughout the whole island. In 1997, that's five years after its inception, we included the sea as part of the territory so the then planning authority took over the control of the land and the sea so that we have a comprehensive influence now over the whole island. So really, in the meantime, since then what we have been trying to do is we have tried to focus on achieving the aims of the main planning document, which is the structure plan for the Maltese Islands. The plan itself is a co-ordinating plan which tries to link and integrate the development requirements of the whole islands. In 2002 we had another important milestone in the merger of the environment department with the planning authority so now our authority has been re-named Water Planning and Environment Authority and there is the confluence of environment and land use which we are now responsible for. And so we have the Development Planning Act which was amended subsequently and the Environment Protection Act which was enacted in 2001. So although it is Malta and we don't have regions and things like that it's a very small microcosm really, we have the same spatial problems and issues faced by other much larger countries.

As regards the planning tools, specifically to Valetta, in 2002 after the... this is really based, mainly based, you can get the information even from the previous explanation of the development planning system in Chester who have the structure plan which feeds off the local plans so more detailed plans of perhaps 5 or 6 throughout the whole Maltese territory. One of them is the Grand Harbour Local Plan which was enacted in 2002. It doesn't just focus on Valletta itself, but it takes up also its countryland and all the harbours of the Vittoriosa, Senglea, Cospicua, Marsa Calcarra 1.09.49 and Floriano which is the suburb itself which are seeing in front of the line of fortifications.

Valletta wasn't seen in isolation, mainly because its problems are very much the problems of the immediate area in that the population is moving out of the inner harbour area, decline of the building fabric, traffic and access difficulties, lack of communication facilities, etc. Since then, although it's just been three years, I think the implementation of the policies themselves in the plan haven't been that successful and it's mainly because the initiatives for regeneration haven't really been taken up by anyone because a lot of people have a lot of fingers in the pie and whatever they try to do, you always find opposition and it's difficult to get consensus with a number of bodies so you can't move actually the proposals forward and there is Mair Par the Malta Environment and Planning Authority on one side there is the Malta Tourism Authority, there is the Local Council, there is Malta Enterprises, there is the Ministry for Economic Development, the Ministry of Finance, the Land Department, all of these have a say in what goes on in Valletta and its countryland so its difficult to get something really off the ground. So really a holistic approach is needed to address the social, economic and the physical requirements. Going back on a national scale, the structure plan was approved in 1992 and now we are trying to replace the plan with what we call a replacement plan through a series of monitoring reports which have been monitoring and taking stock of all the social and economic implications of the land use decisions that are taking place in the last decade or so and now the replacement plan has to take into account those social economic changes, mainly as a result of the growth of the economy accompanied by high development pressure throughout the whole island. So basically what we would like Mair Par, the Malta Planning and Environment Authority would like to have is an integrated Spatial Development Plan which could fulfil a whole number of functions really by translating the aims and visions of the national sustainable development strategy into complete actions by

having responsibilities like, be it government or peri-statal 1.13.16 agencies and linking them to indicators really, that's what we are now trying to put forward to central government.

If I can go to the pictures now...

This is from the other side of the Harbour, you see modern buildings at the back. I tried really to focus on the spaces in front of the Bastions and immediately behind the Bastions themselves. One of the problems is really the integration of the new buildings with the old fabric. You are seeing there at the back a very uninspiring government building at the back and at the front another problem is the small boathouses (and they have been there for quite some time now) to your left. They are mainly used by residents for their hobbies and just like a small shanty town outside the walls themselves.

I don't know if you can recall from other people's presentations, even from the Valletta workshop, where we discussed the fortifications themselves. A number, where we talked about the eligibility of the bastions and their functions, it's being lost and it's gradually being lost by having gardens which were really not part of the whole set-up, the whole military set-up and there's two visible there, one in the foreground and the other one which you can just see - some trees at the top there - is the upper barrack. Never mind you have a very, very useful function because they are really the only remaining few green open spaces in a very much densely populated area and if you visit the views from there through the whole of the natural harbour are actually very nice.

This is another example of undesirable development, shall we say, in front of the walls. You see this is another entrance point to Valletta on the Marsanshanto side facing Sleamal which is more of a modern city now rather than the older part. You are seeing a number of small kiosks and bars emerging all over the place. This space really hasn't been designed properly and to your left there's the depot which links with the launch links Valletta to Spain . There are a number of spaces which are presently very much under-utilised, these are part of the ditches themselves. Most of them are either like this or derelict or used indeed by illegal sporters who have taken up a small garage in these trees and so forth and what the plan is trying to achieve is by giving useful uses to such spaces. Older buildings, same buildings in front of the bastions. Current use of ditches, parking of cars, we have a very much, we have talked about a parking problem in Valletta and the ditches are being used to park residents and people coming in. Valletta is not just a tourist city, it tends to have a lot of different functions. It's the capital city, it is the main administrative centre, it is the main business centre so it's got everything really.

Here is part of the natural foreshore at the tip of the Valletta Peninsular. Uses of this current harbour. This is one of the latest what I believe is success story of Valletta is the Cruise Passenger Terminal, we will have some better pictures later on. We are currently promoting Valletta and Malta itself as a Cruise Passenger Hub and we have got a big project whereby we are building a sea passenger terminal and we have restored a number of very old vaults which are used in the time of the Knights of St John as warehouses for the Navy.

*Tape 130 Begins (CD 2)*

*(Spanish Speaking)*

**Dutch Speaker:**

I think you've got, it's a proposal, because of our schedule now we have almost two hours to go about presentations and there are really different perspectives on that, seeing different things, it's not so useful I think to have the discussion now at this moment. Perhaps we could have the discussion after the 8<sup>th</sup> presentation and now time to think about our schedule. I don't know how everybody else is thinking about this, I think it's useful to .

*(Spanish Speaking)*

**Slovenian Speaker:**

The second problem is that are the ones who mainly participate in the national development of Piran. The private sector finance beats private investments and there maybe some words of . Piran is surrounded on three sides by the sea and on one side by the stone wall which means that stone enlargement is impossible and there is no free spaces. There is a complete different situation, like in other towns and on the territory of Piran there are also three villages, individual hamlets and suburbs, you can see . All of them are territories separated from the town of Piran. This is why all the units function individually and have all the principle activities.

Most of the tourist resorts are situated in Portoroz and while you have several modern housing facilities and other infrastructure with a smaller industrial and territorial. One other view, the town of Piran is a typical Medieval town with narrow streets and buildings, which makes it difficult to access into the town. Because of narrow streets and steep land there are not many public open places and there are not also many green areas and where we have these open places, some of them, they are mostly busy with bikes and cars. One of the town policy objectives is to move all cars from the town and for this reason we should provide enough parking places and an effective public transport as well as an everyday working delivery.

The same goes also for Portoroz where the main problem is the big traffic jams during the summer time and weekends when tourists and one day stay visitors arrive. This causes an economic problem of building and operating of garage which are not being used for the whole year. Because of the land configuration, mainly inclined land and because Piran is a peninsular, with the sea on three sides, these problems become even more evident. The most of do not have sunlight, also because of the night because it's a house with small windows, most of the houses are made of stone and with almost no green spaces. This makes the summer even more hot. The narrow stoney streets are very noisy and because of the difficult accessibility all services are more expensive than ever which leads to moving and activities out of the town. The present way of life is different than in the past. Now we do most of working in closed spaces and when we return home after a long day at work we want to relax. Once it was quite the opposite. The people work on the field and after they came in the warm shelter of their homes.

Also, the climatic and safety conditions were different. Now we have which take care of our safety, while the climatic changes are controlled by technical appliances. We are tired

of sitting among four walls and for this reason the dealings are becoming more similar to the natural environment. The houses have big glass surface, the space are light and sunny and the green spaces are much desired. The land between the house and the environment is not very evidence any more and the first has to drive ourselves right to the door and our homes . All this is opposite from what typical all stone offers, which did not change, and this is true for the whole town of Piran and this I think is the main problem of all these towns and especially in Piran, because we are standing at the point of what to do with Piran. Is this going to be in the future a real city, a living city with all these activities which are for the city necessary, or it will be like a tourist point, one big leisure apartment or like a big, I don't know, restaurant, like Portoroz or something like that.

Now we are standing at this point at what to do with this town. I have also some pictures that might give you some impressions of our coastland.

*(Pointing at OHP)* As you can see, that's the border in Italy. There are three towns that are very similar. This is Portoroz, this is the tourist centre of hotels. This is one complex that is called Benadinas. This is Benadinas, between Portoroz and Piran. This is Piran. You can see there behind the wall. This is . This is under natural protection. This is yacht harbour by marina at Portoroz. This is airport. This beach harbour. This is the main square, this is the teeny square, there is a church. This red building is mostly known as like a, it's called building. We have manage to have really nice activities on this place and in Piran, this is a good thing. This is some inside squares, but unfortunately they are private you know. It should be open to the public. This is market. This is fish harbour. Beautiful sunsets. This is this town's famous wine grower in this region. Figs and olives. We produce salt there and sell it, it's also under national protection all year. It's like a 65 hectare area, it's 600, one-third of Piran salt. That is also under national protection.

*(Spanish Speaking)*

### **Stefan:**

*(Pointing to OHP)* Well, so what you see here is an overview of the town of Lucca. Lucca, as you can see, is a walled town which is separated from the suburbs by this green belt which includes 4kms long cycle of wall, which are completely available for the public. First of all, I want to give you some information about the territorial location of Lucca. You might know Lucca is in Tuscany, north Italy, it is here somewhere, and as I said it is part of the Tuscany region. The main city in Tuscany is Florence which lies about 70kms from Lucca and you can see it here and Lucca is also quite close to Pisa, 20kms, and you go on the Leghorn. The province of Lucca has about 200,000 inhabitants. The principality has 80,000 inhabitants and the centre has only 8,000 inhabitants. When I say the centre I mean the walled town.

Some information about the economy. There is a strong industrial district which is mainly concerned with paper mills. It is a leading production in Europe because the paper mills produce about 7% of all paper consumed in Europe, which is the largest plantation in this field in Europe. Another industrial sector is the Naval one. As everywhere in Europe from the '60's, the Naval Centre has undergone a bigger separation due to a crisis but now the Centre has been transformed and it targets mainly the so-called luxury boats. They have allocated some of the leading industries in this field.

Shoar is also one of the important industrial sectors. Stone industry. We have these marble caves in the province. Remember that the province of Lucca is attached to the province of Masacrara, which is a leading place for stone industry.

Along the coast the tourism begin, even from the beginning of the last century, now is a strong sector of the local economy. This was for the social and economic element and I go back now to special planning.

Special planning concerns most conservation of the town and these are some of the images of the town of Lucca.

*(Pointing to OHP)* These are buildings in the inner centre. You see here piazza which is a square which was built on Roman amphitheatre. As you can imagine it goes back to the Roman times and even before that. So, you see more recent buildings. Romanic churches. This church was erected in the square and you see an example of a tower house. But, as you can imagine, the town is a very old town with a medieval structure and faces some very specific problems which, as I said, are mostly concerned with conservation.

The general principle of spatial planning. We saw yesterday a SDP paper and of course the general principle and objective set out in the SDP paper are included in the spatial planning of Tuscany, but I go now to a preliminary issue because we have been talking about spatial planning but we have a problem concerning the meaning of spatial planning because we don't talk about spatial plans, we talk about a particular project, which concerns building in any part of town but they are not called spatial plans in the general regulations. Plans are based on the integration of European, social and economic issues in order to further revise operations concerning building in the town which have to comply with the general goal of maintenance and preservation for future generations of existing structure. So we might discuss these problems later on.

Now, I will show you, as I said sustainable development is the most easy principle included in our spatial planning and we mean a development which satisfies the needs of present generation without jeopardising the possibility of future generations. That's it and now we have integrated planning. I mean, all plans are integrated and co-ordinated together. We have traditional tools which focus on architectural, economical and social aspects but we have, and they have become more important, tools which focus on the environmental analysis of the territory and all these have a multi-disciplinary approach. I will tell you something about these tools. Traditionally, there is of course an heirarchical approach. There is a strong regionalisation of power ongoing in Italy and now concerning the plans, the regional scanner has a strong autonomy. We start with the regional plans which concerns for instance main roads and so on. Province planning, an implementation stage of the regional and modern indication. Then, local planning, the master plans and other specific plans concerning new regulations. These are traditional tools. This is just to say that one of the main problems of Lucca is accessibility because we have a complete wall there in the historical centre of Lucca of course. The historic centre is a thing and Lucca Municipality is a larger entity and of course 80,000 inhabitants in the Municipality of Lucca and 8,000 inhabitants in the inner centre. I can also add that Lucca outside the wall is a more recent urban development. It began in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. Before that we don't have anything in the small townships around but not the suburbs.

So, we have six different entrance point in the wall there and you can see some of these here and this produces problems with the traffic but I don't want to stress this point here. Environmental Planning - as I said, traditional tools and more recent environmental planning tools, which are of course related with the previous one. Here I just want to make a list of what we use in our planning. State of Environment Report, we use environmental accounting. We put strong importance on environmental certification, for instance the registration, we work very much on the Agenda 21 at a local level. We do a lot of local education information. We have environmental balance, a social balance, a local action plan and so on and special problems we face with a multi-disciplinary approach. It's a common occasion tool which outlines the environmental state of a territory and the policy of the municipality toward it.

Environmental accounting measures with financial resources set for environmental and effect of the environmental policy on resources. As I say, we put much strong importance on the proximity of reaching this sanctification, but we are experimenting other tools which are connected to some external collaboration with other European countries in the framework of the specific Projects for instance projects like this one, urban environmental plan which is about to run and the plans is also another project, which concerns mostly Agenda 21 things and we have also other projects running which has an environmental facet concerning traffic and pollution. You have heard last time, we were in Malta, about the project . It was a feasibility study about the possibility of building an exchange point for all freight traffic going inside the city walls and also for some limited external areas. We have done a feasibility study and we are now starting another Live Environment Project which will experiment some of the solutions which were pointed out in a feasibility study. I mean, we are setting up a smaller hub, which can serve the whole historic centre. It's a small experimentation about the possibility of using hubs as an exchange point for freight distribution and this is a view of a city bastion which I think closes my speech.

*(Spanish Speaking)*

### **Female German Speaker:**

After all these presentations I would like to say a few words about Loerrach. Loerrach is situated in the very South West of Germany just on the border with Switzerland and France, so we are a three national agglomeration.

Loerrach itself has got about almost 50,000 inhabitants but this agglomeration has got about one million people, so this is a very special situation for our city.

We probably did a bit of different presentation because we focus on the development of the inner city, the inner town. This presentation is not made by myself but by one of the spatial planners and he couldn't come so I will do the presentation about Loerrach.

It's about the town, about stabilising the heart, enhancing its town centre. It's also about life therapy for our town, renewal of an entire down town quarter. This fingerprint you won't find when you came to Loerrach about 1975, you don't find this fingerprint anyway in Loerrach but it's just a symbol for what is meant by the development. In 1975 it would have been very hard to find any heart in Loerrach, any centre. It was run down, the air saturated with fumes, cultureless, it was time to discover the fingerprint hidden in the town's layout.

So, why did we pick out the relative matters in the mid '80's. The context of urban development creates the windows of opportunities. The time had come and the relevant state subsidies were available to the money. We were able to build upon fortunately arranged basic urban . The essential elements constituting a town, retail, services, culture are all situated very closely together. Thus rendering the town immediately changeable and real. So we were able to build on this in Loerrach. On the left side you will see the tender from 1988 and on the right side there's an upgrade in status from 2002. There was a national competition provided the schedule for the reconstruction of the town. The success of the overall measure also becomes evident in comparison to the present upgrading in status which shows that the proposal winning the competition was implemented one to one in almost twelve years of construction.

Of course, the traffic framework was examined prior to the competition and the shopping function of the town centre was scrutinised in a market and the local expertise.

There are three words; streets, squares, symbol. They are the key words to understand the design concept which has become evident now. Street being the way through town characterise a new with its own profile, materials and design elements. Squares, like beads strung up on the town's linear north south exits. Individual despite related design elements. Most sparingly furnished. We compare the significance of town squares, so what the composer Albert Herberich about the significance of the race in music, the silence is always more perfect than the music. Symbols, they are meant to be strong town sentinels and simultaneously significant evidence of contemporary art. They give each square its unique characteristics and as road marks they constitute the linking element among the squares.

So now you see our market place before it was changed. As for the two topics, design level in public space and demand of art, we were able to test how high to raise the bar in terms of urban planning culture, even before the reconstruction. There's the market place afterwards. Despite initial protests against the waste of space by the new fountain on our market place, it has gained the entire acceptance of our population today. The market place is used for market on three days a week.

Here you see on top the sculpture of Franz Bernhard, at our new central bus terminal might be considered a test to whether a significant piece of contemporary art in Loerrach could dare to step out into public and expose position. Here you see it much closer. The initial reservations at first, like always, today a town sentinel taken for granted. Now a few pictures without comment. This is the view on the centre square, our squares are dedicated to the twin towns. This was before, this was after the reconstruction. Here you see the Stephan Bikenmoel , large column figure from 1997. This is the old market place before, in excess of 20,000 cars passing every day on this market place. This is the market place nowadays. You find Cyoops culture here from which is called the granite rose of Perino, it's Spanish. This is the place which was called Boekhoff before. One could only compare it with Hoemeyer's Oddysey if one wanted to describe the way of securing this location for our new house, the theatre which is called The Boekhoff, it took exactly ten years. Chris you know that place. This is the place now. There you find the truncated pyramid room from Bussenamine as far as we know the only sculpture in a public Place in Europe, this one. On the right side is our Boekhoff, our theatre and on the left side is a new hotel and restaurant built.

From a large attitude a few of the total area to be reconstructed, our so-called innovation quarter. In the last workshop Stefan was talking about the innovation centre which is situated here. This new square intended as a red carpet is co-financed by an investor with 250,000 euros. This is a sculpture from Beatrix Sassin, she comes from Dusseldorf, she was a student from Boyce. In all probability it is the most popular public sculpture in town.

So, now we go back to the old market place and our music festival is called . The town is a stage for the play of life and the music festival meets all these stages and brings a lot of life in town. The festival has taken place since 1949 and has added greatly to continuous growth in the surge of memories.

One last figure, federal experience has shown that every public euro spent in such reconstruction measures triggers private investment of 6 to 8 euros. In Loerrach we have achieved a rate of 1 to 18. Thank you.

*(Spanish Speaking)*

*Tape 131 begins – (CD 3)*

*(Opening speech in Spanish)*

### **Dutch Speaker:**

We ask us to respond the two questions as stated by David this morning: What have walled towns to gain from spatial planning and what has the experience of walled towns to offer for wider spatial. They want us to come back to do those two questions? Is that correct? ...

### **English Speaker 1:**

I think this will inform us in terms of whether we are covering the ground sufficiently. My general feeling is that today we have covered a great deal of ground. Those questions are quite easy to answer now which they weren't necessarily at breakfast. What I have done, if we imagine a grid of the 15 questions which we were asked to put in text on and we recall the principles which we discussed yesterday I think we would actually cover most of that grid. You know, most of the principles would have been covered by the examples, by the answers to the questions and the presentations today, so I think we are a lot further forward that we were in the previous two seminars for very good reason; that we have learnt from the previous two seminars in terms of going and we have also had more time in this seminar with 2 days. But I mean I don't know if you would find it useful to try and actually fill in a grid if we identify the principles? and then see which areas are gaps and which are well covered?

### **Charlie (Chester Speaker):**

I think it's important that we try to focus in on a relatively small number of key issues and priorities and I think certainly from what I heard this morning, there are, it would not be that hard to identify probably about 6 things that we feel we need to address and we could usefully and practically gain from by exploring. So you know it may be a good idea simply to almost go round the table and ask people what do they think those common issues, those 2 priorities

are in light of our earlier discussions and then filter that down to the ones that we want to collectively look at and then we can take up Carlos's suggestion I think which is that we give one or other member of the work group responsibility for going away and co-ordinating the inputs on one or other of those issues and then we can bring it back together at the end to make sense of them. I think that's what you were suggesting, maybe we should try and do that now.

**English Speaker 1:**

And we try and do that, coming back together for the conclusions today, we are not talking about going off with those separate things.

**Dutch Speaker:**

I think it's important that we try and concentrate ourselves on the walled-towns issue, not the normal spatial planning from every normal town. The concentration about walled-towns, specific things about walled towns is very important I think.

*(Spanish Speaking)*

**English Speaker:**

It seemed to me that one of the issues that came out this morning from I think virtually every single presentation was how we manage and realise opportunities in the intermediate space that I think were very clear about that lies between the walls and the outlying peripheral parts of our settlements and we saw this morning a number of different approaches to that. From Luca, where there's this kind of environmental green zone, this green moat, through to Chester where perhaps that area is one of much greater development activity where opportunities to accommodate some and emerging needs are being met and then through to Valletta where there was still really a blank sheet in some ways there or at least it was space that was being filled by uncontrolled activity with enormous potential to do different things in the future. So that's one issue for me which I think will be well worth looking at and tackling between us. The other issue which I think has come through to me throughout the last two days really is this one of how we sustain our historic cores as active communities. We are sitting here in a place which has a settled community within the walls and I think Carlos confirmed to me early on that it was the only one of the walled towns in this area that has a real living community. We have heard from Piran that they are this kind of cusp, this really important moment in deciding whether they effectively become a museum or just a tourism destination or they could continue to sustain themselves as real places and I think we have examples between us of places that do work very well and some which don't and some which maybe don't know. So I think, again, that's one that we could tackle.

I think there is an issue, although I am not exactly clear what it is, about the relationship between the region and the strategic connection between walled cities and their wider regions and their wider economies and the very local and specific interventions that we make at a local level and understanding what those tensions are because it seems to me that everyone we have heard from has these issues around the relationship between the local and the strategic. There is something in there although I am not exactly clear yet as to how we would tackle that one.

And then finally from me, I think there is an issue about how historic places can change sensitively in a contemporary environment, particularly from the point of view of architecture and the accommodation of contemporary and quite radical architecture alongside historic form and some of the controversies that can arise around that and how you manage that and how you manage the engagement of people in that process and we have some good examples earlier on when we walked round the walls here and saw how, I think the expectation was walls without            I think that idea of how you can continue to sustain your heritage but enable those places to grow and take people with you in that process, is really important and its something else that I think we could look at. That's my contribution thus far.

*(Spanish speaking)*

### **Dutch Speaker:**

I think, talking about the specific situation of walled towns, there is a specific situation in the vertical space, talking about spatial planning there is a horizontal problem of course but when you are a normal city, not a walled town city, you have to fill in the heritage influence and you can make buildings about 60 and 100 and more than 100 metres in the centre. But in the specific situation of the walled towns you have also a limited situation in the vertical sense and that specific situation in the vertical sense has of course its influence in it's lack of space in that vertical sense. In the situation in a horizontal sense is that it's normally a higher density than in other old historic cities, so it's a double situation I think.

But you can see there's a problem, perhaps you can see it also as a chance of            why people go also in Holland to that historic places, historic cities because they get there the feeling of history. When you make new towns there isn't that feeling about history and I think that attractive situation is the situation that helps us to lose the problems, for instance, of parking, parking under our normal level in most situations of course or that vertical situation that vertical balance we have to organise.

Another thing that is specific I think, given the picture of            of that fingerprint, I think we must use our fingerprints in a more than normal way. Our identity is stronger as a walled town than when we are not a walled town - you see it also here in this area. But you see also the difference between the same form, the same situations here in this town, this centre of Vitoria has always this form and it functions complete in another way and so the community make the situation and that's why it is important to give the community more energy perhaps to function in different ways. The most particular situation we saw yesterday in Sant Aniana            . What Sant Aniana in 15-20 years, when the old people are gone. I was thinking about that, I think you must realise a solution specific for that situation and for instance for            you must make their houses only for old people who share the bank, yesterday there was only one I thought, but there can be more people who share that bank and you there let only old people in that situation perhaps it's a new function. And I think, more than the normal situation, we must think about new functions for old buildings, old communities in this situation and make clear choices then, not grey but            talking about choices.

That's enough for this moment I think.

*(Spanish speaking)*

### **New English Speaker:**

May I... You're right, it is a topic that clearly should be studied because what you are saying doesn't have universal application. People do prefer in given situations to live within the walls. There are many examples of this that you can draw on. So there's a difference and in you presume, said, it is as you say, but I don't think it's the same in Chester and in fact, as an example, it isn't just a walled towns' issue by the way, just coming to Peter's point earlier, this is not just a walled towns' issue - to re-populate cities is an issue right across the piece and it may be especially important for walled towns however and therefore worthy of consideration as one of the topics in the way that you suggest. But I guess if you were to look at a range of walled towns you would find different situations, which of itself, in terms of this project, makes it imminently suitable as an area of study.

*(Spanish speaking)*

### **Dutch Speaker:**

I think proactive is very important to be if it is possible.

### **English Speaker:**

Could I...? We just mentioned accessibility, one of the themes running right the way through Archway is accessibility, disability and it strikes me what you have just said in highlights and is massively important within this area and it touches one of the things in the submission that we said we were going to do.

### **Charlie (Chester):**

I think on that note as well it isn't just about the accessibility within the walled town and overcoming the walled barrier, it's also, given that many of these places have only been able to survive because they have had to expand beyond the walls, it is the connections between those outlying parts of the city and the historic core which we have to address as well but I think that access issue has to be right at the centre of this work as with all the other things as well.

*(Spanish Speaking)*

### **Maltese Speaker:**

Probably the solution could be the creation of sustainable communities. To keep things alive in the city and the walled town. Therefore one of the possible issues could be the land use, the diversity within a walled town. For Valletta it could be a very specific case because it's the only capital city so it has to address a multitude of a lot of things which other cities don't have to so there are some peculiarities there. We are interested even in the spaces, this was mentioned by you Charlie and again by Carlos, the spaces, the use of the spaces, then again in Valletta there's no plans. Floriana which is a suburb of Valletta was a planned city as well so there has not been any development outside the walls. What we would like to see is what to do with those left over spaces, the bastions, the ditches especially, the huge spaces there and the problems the to the ditches. Those boat houses we saw earlier, for instance, spring

to mind and other buildings, maybe we have green spaces, green lungs within the spaces themselves.

Another issue could be the impactful implementation of the plans themselves. We have problems of implementation. We may produce excellent plans and then when it comes to the actual implementation, because it is difficult to implement, to co-ordinate actions, then really all the work fizzles out, probably another issue could be the co-ordination between urban planning and heritage. This is another tension. In Malta again, we have got the Malta Environment and Planning Authority and at the other end we have got the Superintendents of Cultural Heritage and it's a very fuzzy kind of inter-relationship as to the powers of the two legislations, who is responsible for what and we get a lot of issues where like for instance planning permission for something and then all of a sudden the Superintendent comes in and says "Listen, there is an area of archaeological heritage there" and they just stop the works. What does the developer do then? Does he stop, he's got a permit in hand, there's no co-ordination there either.

The tensions that Charlie was mentioning; the regional and local tensions, for us probably they are not as such regional tensions but the tensions are really the local council, the limited powers of the local council itself because it is a capital city so it's powers are really limited whereas in other maybe in other walled cities like even in North like Indina the local council has probably got more power in that it's responsibilities are very much outlined. But because it is a capital city Valletta, then the local council and other bodies take a second preference and central government comes really strongly on the powers it has. That's all.

*(Spanish Speaking)*

**Dutch Speaker:**

Well I think we can all agree we want to keep our walled towns vivid and vital in the future and on the other hand we find it very difficult to do so and to add new elements in time in these historic cities as we have heard this morning. We heard the success of Loerrach but we also heard the problems that was facing in this town on the lower part of this town to get new development developed. So I think that's where the best practice guide comes in and we should share experience from Loerrach or from others, how they dealt with the community, with the local entrepreneurs that were probably against the plans in Loerrach where they got their cars out of the city, etc, how did they manage that and we can share experience about that. The other item is about settlement and in previous time people settled in walled towns because of safety and because of trade that was going on in our cities and that's what we lost in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century. We broke down parts of our walls and trade was not going on in the city but there was industry around the city and that's the idea that Charlie brought this morning in his presentation, I think we should really look at it. He mentioned the footloose capital, you called it, I think you mean IT business, for instance, people who work in those kind of businesses are most probably younger people, probably higher educated and they are interested in cultural history, in theatre, in festivities that our walled towns can be used as a pedestal for those kinds of activities. I think in order to attract people to settle again in our historic cities if we concentrate on this footloose capital I think that there might be a solution in that. Okay thank you.

*(Spanish speaking)*

### **Maltese Speaker:**

Probably it could be we are seeking ways of originally how to turn things around. Hubert was saying about that the four cities used to function mainly for safety and for trade, where for instance the Malta experience - we have turned things around, the trade use of the warehouses has been turned around and we would be using that for leisure. It's the innovation really which come up with things which keep things alive.

### **Charlie Chester:**

I think there's an important issue which relates to all of this. Peter referred to the need to concentrate on what is special about walled cities and I think in the context of a modern economy where people can make choices and they can move around much more freely, then we have to think about what our past and our unique characteristics give us which position us in a very strong way to attract the investment in the future and in that way, perhaps we can start to resolve some of the tensions which we have referred to between the conservation of our past and the development of our future economies and in fact see our past as being the key to the future and then looking positively at how we use it to transform the nature of our places and position ourselves to become sustainable communities and I think all of these things can be connected in that way.

### **New Speaker (Marc):**

Maybe this is the answer as Carlos said, these tensions between planners and heritage protection, we have to see the buildings different you know, because the heritage see the buildings like an object, as a technical object, just to preserve it and we have to see it like a living building. They are built to have their purpose, to shelter activities, you know and this is the difference. There is in answer, new functions for all these buildings. Because these old buildings have even more value than the new ones because they have a history, they have a different function in their history and therefore they can be like a motivation for new creativity you know and this is as the whole, the whole city can be used to bring something new from this.

### **English Speaker:**

For me this issue has been around for a long, long time and I can remember a debate around this about 12-13 years ago. You just touched, this second, touched on a huge issue really in terms of spatial planning and what we, the circle through Archway, has to say about the past is the key to the future, heritage is just a building - no it isn't and when that was being said by Marc, I got round this table, people were saying, "Yes, that is exactly right". But there's a huge debate around that issue. There are people who would simply soak in aspic the buildings and that would be it - and it strikes me, you know, you are looking for those six issues - you've just struck a goldmine in terms of a theme which has huge ramifications for a subsequent debate, well it's already there - the debate goes on every day - but it does strike me that it is a very, very big one.

*(Spanish speaking)*

**Stephan:**

Yes, I just want to add, you said before you said the word 'market'. Market has already transformed our inner centre during the 50's and the 60's and the centre becomes decertified, people move from these places to another. Now we have to face another problem, we don't need to make any dissemination of a failure within the centre, we don't need to advertise to the beauties of the centre because people already know they would like to move to the centre but the market is moving against them because it's normally expensive to live in the centre so we need new instrument, new instrument of the economic management of the situation in the inner centre otherwise there are for instance many shop sellers would like to sell everything to, say, Americans that would like to come and look at, as a simple example. Then of course this our major issue, other issues are accessibility of the building, connected with traffic and so on .

New tools to manage the market strengths would be working.

*(Spanish speaking)*

**Maltese Speaker:**

After listening to my colleagues, I think the first thing which we have to decide - what type of a town or city do we want? Do we want a city as a monument? An historical monument? Or do we want a city lively? with various activities? I mean, if we want that type of a city we have to strike a balance because you have various stakeholders, commercial, administrative, cultural, residential - where do we start the balance there? Do we want to push away from the historic centre, the entertainment activity? Or do we want it in the centre of the historic centre of the city. So I think, first and foremost, we have to define, we have to decide what type of a city do we want. For example in our case in Valletta, we have used various spaces for cultural events, social events and economical events within the bastions themselves. Valletta, as Victor said, there is no periphery, so we cannot go, we cannot push away from the historic centre so we have everything all around the historic centre; the commercial, the administrative, the residential... but there again, you have a conflict; the residential needs are different from those in the commercial sector, but you try to strike a balance there, for instance, during the last five years, we have seen a growing number of restaurants, cultural venues in Valletta, which we did not used to have 10 years ago. Somehow, luckily enough, we are managing to strike a balance between the two needs. For instance, we are as we discuss at the first Valletta workshop, the park and ride system and the pedestrianisation system. It is a controversial issue and it is still creating a controversy but hopefully when we put this into practice in March/April, we see how it works, we try and strike a balance because nothing is static, I mean, you have a plan, you put it into practice but then you have to see how it works, what are the reactions, what you can change. So it's quite difficult to state what has to be done because in our case in Valletta it is completely different from Den Bosch, Den Bosch is completely different from Piran and so on.

But my main point is this; what type of a city or a town do we want? What type of balance do we need to strike between the various stakeholders?

And one last point, I just remembered, but I think Stephan mentioned it; the question of the housing market in the city centres - we in Valletta are experiencing that property in Valletta and in the historic centre especially is becoming very much expensive and that is pushing

people away from coming to live in the historic centre, although fortunately enough, again during the last three years, we have had quite a good movement of middle aged people coming to live back in Valletta but from a certain social sector only and therefore you cannot have a social mix which can afford to have property in Valletta, whether it is rented out or what.

**Marc:**

Maybe one questions whether these towns should be suitable for living you know, because of these problems, because the activities, the shops, because it's too expensive to be there and then it's like Americans would say; we have the same problems, the prices go high but those who buy these properties, they don't live exactly there.

**New Speaker:**

What I meant, I meant housing property, not shops.

**Dutch Speaker:**

You mean in your town people buy apartments or houses only for a holiday? Yes?

**Marc:**

Okay, that would be a problem I suppose in other towns also, the big question is are these cities in the future for living; to live in these cities?

**Dutch Speaker:**

So before sustainable spatial planning is sustainable society?

**Maltese Speaker:**

No. In our case, no, whoever buys property in the centre of Valletta or rents out, they are there as residents per se. Not just to have a shop or to come for the weekend. Who buys a property in Valletta, lives there.

**Dutch Speaker:**

So, in that case you are lucky.

**New Speaker:**

I was thinking before, not simple single investment, big investors who spend millions of euros buying large estates, not just simple apartments. But I just want to... what instrument do we have to regulate the market, for instance, as we have seen here in Lagardia we don't have even any instrument to prevent people opening holes in the city walls in order to push their cars inside, so (laughs).

*(Spanish Speaker)*

**English Speaker:**

It seems to me we have actually got about 7 of the 6 principles we were looking for and we are beginning to talk round them again. I think possible one issue which hasn't been fully covered which was brought out this morning was the link between the land use planning tools and the environmental management tools which is obviously part of the management issue which is something which we haven't covered, but if we take management issues, including stakeholders and the balances - one, I am not putting these in priority order:

We had social participation in spatial planning and diverse social groupings as a key success factor I think, that also brings in the issue of how we consult with people about the plans.

What's special to all towns, which involves the access to social, physical, the height dimension, the density dimension and I think, really, perhaps within that comes this planning for the marginal areas and the link areas and the, one could call them the gateway areas, really but which is another one.

The walled cities and the regional level, which is if you like the governance issue, who in the different hierarchies of government should have most influence, what are the current policy constraints which are created and lastly, is this question of the purpose of the city as monument, as living community, the active community as Charlie put it, I think we have got some really excellent section headings and points for producing the guide.

Sorry to bring you back to practical issues.

**Charlie (Chester):**

Can we go back to windmills?

**English speaker:**

We have, impressively.

*(Spanish speaking)*

*Tape 132 begins – (CD 4)*

*(Spanish speaking)*

**Lady Speaker (Maude?):**

Okay, the issues that have been recognised.

The first one is sustainability which includes land use planning and environmental planning.

The second one is the first social structures, management issues, stakeholders and balance.

Unique and special characteristics.

The fourth one is intermediate areas, conflict areas, transitional areas.

The fifth one is walled cities and regional interventions.

And the sixth one is the purpose of the city, monuments, or active city, or living community.

As you can see with each issue there are the names of the cities behind it. The first issue, sustainability, maybe Lucca is going to take responsibility for that issue but they need to have some time to go over.

*(some technical problems with tape and confused speaking)*

The second city: Den Bosch will look at the first social structures.

Piran will look at unique and special characteristics.

Arrabarri will look at intermediate areas.

Chester will look at walled cities and regional interventions.

And then the last point does say initially Chester for the purpose of this study but we will start off with it but the idea is to ask the other cities that are not here at the moment if they could volunteer to take this issue to gather all the information together so that either Pecs or Verona.

*(some more muffled talking)*

**Charlie (Chester):**

I think what we just need to explain is that in testing the scheme we looked through each of the elements of the scheme and tried to apply it to the particular thing that we picked on which was the intermediate areas and in doing so we agreed that we would make some revisions to the scheme and if we did that then it could apply to all of the themes throughout Archway and what you have there is just an indication of where those revisions will be made. What we will do I don't think we to probably go through that here now, what we will do is circulate that to everybody immediately along with the record of the proceedings of this meeting and guidance on how we apply this in the future, either to the Spatial Planning Project or to the theme that we take on in the future. So I think we are all in agreement now on the methodology, on how we apply it to this issue and who's going to do what, so I think that's a major step forward for us from yesterday, certainly.

*(Spanish speaker)*

**Charlie (Chester):**

Just as lead partner and I hope on behalf of all the other partners I would like to thank Carlos for volunteering to do that very important job for the whole of the Archway Project.

*(Spanish speaker)*

*(Clapping)*

**Chairman:**

Carlos, can I thank you all on behalf of the Circle... I said can I thank you all on behalf of the Circle. That's it, have a good evening.

END