

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL LOCAL BOARDS

Notes of Meeting

GRAVESHAM LOCAL BOARD

Date: Wednesday, 9 July 2008

Venue: Council Chamber, Gravesham Borough Council Offices, Civic Centre,
Windmill Street, Gravesend DA12 1AU

Present:

Local Board Members: Michael Snelling (Chairman), Leslie Christie, Jane Cribbon
and Ray Parker

Apologies for absence: Maureen Newell

KCC Officers: Will Farmer (Community Liaison Manager)

		Action
A1.	Welcome & Introductions by Chairman Mr Snelling	
A2.	Declarations of Interests by Members in Items on the Agenda for this Meeting.	
	Mr Christie declared an interest in the item on the Angel of the South as his house is within 200 yards of the proposed Ebbsfleet landmark.	
A3.	Notes of Local Board meeting held on 2nd April 2008	
	The notes of the meeting held on 2 April 2008 were agreed.	
A4.	Member Community Grants	
	<u>Grants with declared members interests from Maureen Newell:</u>	
	Passed: Kent Association for Spina Bifida, Marling Cross, West Court Community Forum.	
A5.	Mark Davey, Director of Future City Ltd will be speaking on the Project and its wider role in promoting cultural regeneration in Kent Thameside. Future City Ltd are the organisation managing the Ebbsfleet Landmark Project	
	£2 million private sector funding on gifted land. No public money involved. Some sculptures will be landscaped in park i.e. dish and wing, temple. Selection Panel meets early September, comments and lobbying a part of that process along with representations from schools. The winning artist will then be announced followed by planning application costing, build analysis and so on.	
A6.	Questions to the presenter from the public	
	<u>John</u> : few personal opinions – did not like horse, liked the disc and wing. Need to take into account wishes of people living in the immediate vicinity.	

	<p><u>Vernon McCarthy</u>: what happens if no planning permission is granted? MF: if turned down by district council, there can be an appeal. If unsuccessful could not go ahead. Could only be decided on land use issues, not what the actual sculpture looks like.</p> <p><u>Dennis Llewellyn</u>: Local people should have had more say. Should be something spectacular “jumping out” at you.</p> <p>Mark D: wanted to announce competition and then get response. Originally did not appreciate size and scale of project. See it as catalyst for the area rather than just sculpture on a hill.</p> <p><u>MF</u>: thought exhibition would go from Bluewater to both civic centres.</p> <p><u>Mr. Babstone</u>: What was the psychology of all this? Why is this happening? Is it cosmetic response to loss of identity? Are the proposals supported by public support?</p> <p>Mark D: No precedents so far except Angel of the North, all others have fallen by the wayside.</p> <p><u>Unknown</u>: Why is it not a Kent Invicta horse? That is the epitome of Kent</p> <p>Mark D: it is an artist’s idea, not a giant Kent logo.</p> <p><u>Unknown</u>: whatever goes there will be a landmark for North Kent, whatever sculpture it is. Also, worried that if whole site was not managed it would become a sad site with no interaction.</p> <p>Mark D: It will be managed as part of the linear park.</p> <p><u>Les Christie</u>: It is an exciting concept. Does not think it should be Invicta horse or logo for Kent, it needs to represent Ebbsfleet and Northfleet.</p> <p><u>Ray Parker</u>: How was panel for shortlist brought together, as it looks as if no one local is part of this process? Why was no-one local consulted?</p> <p>Mark D: Wanted people who knew what suitable art was, how would anyone local have been chosen? And just what was local? Local ideas and artists put forward to the panel. The three patrons decided on the composition of the panel.</p>	
A7.	Jane Setterfield, Area Manager, West Kent will be speaking on the initial plans for the refurbishment and modernisation of Gravesend Library	
	£2.5 million project to generally improve the exterior, replace	

	<p>heating and lighting, redecorate and refurbish keeping the original features, but some of the library (the old bookshop bought in 1982) was unsafe and held up by internal supports preventing the use of space. They want to demolish this part and rebuild a building to serve the entire district of Gravesham.</p> <p>Timetable: Autumn 2008- planning application with consultation before Winter 2008/09 demolition 2009/10 business as usual during construction Summer 2010- library temporarily moves Autumn/Winter 2010 works completed</p>	
A8.	Questions to the presenter from the public	
	<p><u>Kath Anley</u>: Head of Library Services. Any thought given to whether the new unit would be there in 100 years time like the original library- answer, working towards minimum guidelines as set out by KCC. Looking at all sorts of ideas.</p> <p><u>Les Christie</u>: Is there any provision for the Gravesend Museum?</p> <p><u>Kath Anley</u>: Probably not, as limit to how far the money would stretch.</p> <p><u>Sandra Soda</u>: Gravesend historical society – need somewhere? Two members of the public suggested the old police station and the disused courts that adjoined the library.</p>	
A9.	Questions from the public to Local Board members on general issues	
	<p><u>Tony Larkin of Albion Road</u>: Is this road the responsibility of KCC or the Borough council? The drains did not work.</p> <p>It was said that drains were the responsibility of KCC.</p> <p><u>Communication with KCC: Jennifer Smith</u>: Wanted to find out about this meeting, tried to contact Will Farmer, tried four times. Could not get in to this meeting at 6.45, the doors were locked.</p> <p><u>Unknown</u>: No one at the public display at Bluewater knew anything about this meeting.</p> <p>Various others said there were problems getting in building and perhaps that is why there were not more people at the meeting.</p>	To pass this on to KHS
A10.	Date of Next meeting – 9th Oct 2008	
A11.	Any Other Business notified to the Chairman prior to the meeting.	