

QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR REGENERATION AND CORPORATE STRATEGY FROM COUNCILLOR CLEO SOANES (PECKHAM AND NUNHEAD COMMUNITY COUNCIL)

Please could you provide an update on the consultation process, scheduled works and timescale for Network Rail Peckham Rye Station redevelopment project. Given that a lot of the arts based economic activity continues to recognise the established creative industries and will encourage new creative industries to emerge?

RESPONSE

Consultation and engagement

The Gateway to Peckham project is identified in the Peckham and Nunhead Area Action Plan, which has been prepared and consulted on over the past eight years and forms the basis of the project moving forward.

In June 2013, we appointed business support consultants Greater London Enterprise (GLE) to aid and assist businesses throughout the life of the project. The council then wrote to all businesses in July 2013 and in November 2013, informing them of the project, advising of the appointment of the architects and offering support through the appointed business support GLE. All letters were hand delivered to ensure they reached those operating on the sites.

The focus of the GLE work has been on building one to one relationships and, through this, understanding of individual business needs and ambitions. GLE have offered support to a majority of businesses operating, focussing on the front of the station having made contact with 27 out of 31 known businesses and provided a range of support including investigating relocation opportunities and assistance with business rates.

In addition to the work of the council, Network Rail have been actively discussing the project with tenants and have been advising of available tenancies elsewhere in their portfolio. GLE have also offered support with Network Rail to three of the nine businesses operating to the rear of the station.

Architects were appointed by Network Rail in November 2013 and attended the 25 November Peckham and Nunhead Community Council to introduce them to the community.

A public event to gather information on how the local community currently feel about and use the site to inform the development of initial designs was held on 30 November 2013. This was attended by nearly 200 people. The presentation materials were displayed in Peckham Library and made available on the website, inviting feedback. To ensure that the views of station users were captured over 500 flyers were handed out to station users in a morning and evening peak. In addition flyers were also distributed to properties within 100m of the site.

A second set of public events are planned for 18 and 20 January 2014. To improve awareness of this consultation, press releases and leaflet drops, including over 500

to commuters and local networks circulating the leaflet, took place. This will be followed by a week long exhibition at Peckham Library.

In addition, Weston Williamson will be attending February community council, a number of youth community groups and will be meeting with the Peckham Town Team. Once designed, a planning application will be submitted to the council by Network Rail. As part of the planning permission process a statutory consultation process will be undertaken.

A contact list is being collated and regular e-newsletters will be provided to keep people up to date on project progress.

Schedule

Works to bring the northern tower retail unit (formerly a William Hill) back into operation are underway. Network Rail is currently advertising this unit and we expect a new tenant to be in place by spring 2014.

Accessibility is an issue at Peckham Rye, particularly for those with disabilities and young children and an application has been made to the Department for Transport for funding to install lifts. We expect to be notified in early 2014 if the station has been successful.

Following a structural survey of the floor of the Old Waiting Room (also known as the former Billiard Room), further improvement works are being investigated with the hope that the space can be brought into a safe and usable condition – with further progress early in Spring 2014. Alongside this, we are also looking to improve the lighting of the front of the station to accentuate the design of the building, again starting in spring 2014.

It is anticipated that a planning application will be made in early spring and has been informed by the consultation events outlined above. The programme set out in the Mayor's regeneration fund requires delivery of the project by March 2016. As mentioned above, the council will be providing regular updates to ensure the community is kept informed of project progress.

Cultural businesses

The council will be working with local cultural organisations and businesses to develop a cultural programme of events and activities alongside the regeneration. This will compliment all the amazing things already happening in Peckham. The council will soon be approaching local arts groups and others to help create and design the programme of events. The project is in its early stages and we hope to update the community in the next few months.