

# Elephant and Castle – community council briefing

October 2010

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## Leisure centre

In July the council's cabinet agreed a report which identified the existing leisure centre site at the Elephant & Castle as the preferred location for a new leisure facility. Subsequently the council has undertaken a programme of consultation to identify local views about the priorities for the new facility. The consultation took the following form:

- A questionnaire that has been sent to all properties within the opportunity area and members of the Fusion leisure centre. The questionnaire was also sent to local stakeholders including schools, users groups, local councillors and executive members.
- Press article in the Southwark news which invited residents to also complete the questionnaire on-line and attend the public exhibition that was held on September 14<sup>th</sup> at the Fusion Leisure Centre.

To date we have received over 1100 responses to the questionnaire and over 100 attended the exhibition.

The material used at the exhibition is on display at the community council meeting tonight. The questionnaires are available and the closing date for submitting these has been extended to Friday 8 October.

The responses will be analysed and will form part of the report to the Councils Cabinet in November when a decision will be taken on the next steps for developing the new facility.

## Lend Lease

The regeneration agreement with Lend Lease was formally signed on 23rd July. Lend Lease are now completing the appointments of their professional team who will prepare the planning application which is expected to be submitted in winter 2011. They are also working on a consultation strategy that they expect to complete during October following which they will be attending a special meeting of the Walworth Community Council to introduce key members of their team and outline how they plan to take forward the application and consult on it.

## Infrastructure

TfL and it's contractor continue work to remove the southern roundabout and subways.

As part of the works to convert the Elephant & Castle southern roundabout to a signalised junction, Transport for London need to make changes to the operation of traffic in the area. A traffic switchover, entailing temporary road closure and bus diversions, will need to take place to enable the transition to the new road layout. This is scheduled to occur at the weekend 20.00 on 8/10/10 - 05.00 on 11/10/10. To facilitate the works, Walworth Road will be closed at the junction with Elephant and Castle and buses will need to be diverted. TfL are providing information on this and it will be available at the meeting.

## Housing Sites

As noted in the update to the June community council six schemes at the following locations totaling 265 dwellings are now under construction;

- St. Georges Road
- New Kent Road
- Library Street
- Brandon Street
- Townsend Street
- Camberwell New Road

The St. Georges Road scheme is due for occupation during October and a viewing event has been held for former Heygate residents who have completed the right to return form. The New Kent Road scheme is due for completion before Christmas and a similar viewing event will be arranged.

In addition planning consent has been granted for the 96 dwelling scheme at Royal Road and Housing Corporation funding has been secured for this scheme allowing it to commence on site prior to Christmas. A planning application for a 72 dwelling scheme at Harper Road will be considered at planning committee on October 12<sup>th</sup>.

## Heygate re-housing

As noted at June's community council meeting most residents of the estate have now moved and there are now only 15 Leaseholders and 8 secure tenants remaining.

## Heygate Demolition Phase 1

A public meeting for residents attended by over 50 residents who live near to the site was held on the 20<sup>th</sup> July. Ward councillors, council officers and representatives from Lend Lease the council's project managers for the scheme attended and answered questions about the proposals. The feedback from residents was that it provided helpful information about how the project will be undertaken and how the impact of the works will be minimised. Following the meeting action has been taken to address immediate concerns which were raised about pests and safety.

Tenders for this work have been let and will be returned to the council mid-October for evaluation. The current programme anticipates that a contractor will be appointed during November allowing for commencement of works during January 2011.

A 'Prior Approval Notice' has been submitted to the councils planning department which sets out the works that will be undertaken and what steps are being taken to keep to a minimum the impacts on adjoining residents and the environment. A third newsletter has been sent to residents living near the site informing them about the notice and how they can view the material and also updating them on the timetable for the works.

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