

# Meeting Report

Regarding:

London Paramount Entertainment Resort Community Liaison Group Meeting

Date:

21 July 2016

Attending:

- Noreen Salway – Southfleet Parish Council (NS)
- Sue Constant (SC)
- David Mote – Dartford Borough Council (DM)
- Bryan Parry – Swanscombe & Greenhithe Town Council (BP)
- Bryan Read – Dartford Borough Council (BR)
- Richard Lees – Dartford Borough Council (RL)
- Mark Coxshall – Thurrock Council (MC)
- Gary May – Northfleet Big Local (GM)
- Penny Marsh – Churches together in Ebbsfleet (PM)
- Linda Collins – Bean Residents Association (LC)
- Duncan Wood – Bean Parish Council (DW)
- Rosemary Dymond – Cobham Parish Council (RD)
- David Testa – London Paramount (DT)
- Christine Clarke – London Paramount (CC)
- Andy Martin – PPS (chair) (AM)
- Laura Taylor – PPS (secretariat) (LT)

Apologies:

Mark Templeton – EDC

Peter Scollard – Gravesham Borough Council

<b>MATTERS ARISING</b>		<b>Actions</b>
1.	<p><u>Introduction</u></p> <p>Following introductions AM provided background to the establishment of the Community Liaison Group (CLG). Emphasising that the CLG would provide a forum for London Paramount to have a greater understanding of local issues, an opportunity for a two way exchange of information and to discuss topics of interest in greater detail.</p> <p>AM explained that the group’s membership was taken from community representatives through outreach to Ebbsfleet Development Corporation (EDC), Dartford Borough Council, Gravesham Borough Council, Kent County Council and Thurrock Council, alongside Parish Council, Resident Associations and community organisations. The process for choosing other representatives was also outlined with AM stating that an invite and application form was issued to all attendees to previous stages of consultation who provided their contact details (2,343 addresses) with 78</p>	

	<p>applications returned.</p> <p>It was emphasised that the CLG will focus on London Paramount Entertainment Resort but recognises that there are other developments taking place in the area and there will be natural crossover.</p>	
2.	<p><u>Background</u></p> <p>DT provided an overview on the proposed Entertainment Resort including information on the main attractions and licensing agreements, as well as the status of the project as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project and the use of a Development Consent Order (DCO) submitted to central government for planning consent. DT went on to detail the community engagement that has taken place to date including the four stages of pre-application consultation and ongoing online engagement including through the social media channels and community e-bulletins. An explanation was provided for alterations to the programme and anticipated DCO application submission date including the ongoing business and masterplan review. It was confirmed that a fifth stage of statutory public consultation will be taking place ahead of submission in 2017.</p>	
3.	<p><u>Draft Terms of Reference</u></p> <p>AM outlined the draft Terms of Reference that had been circulated to the Group prior to the meeting seeking confirmation that everyone was in agreement with the content.</p> <p>All present agreed with the Terms of Reference. BR specifically stated that the Terms of Reference were good and was pleased that substitutes could be sent.</p>	<p><b>LT to seek confirmation from those members unable to attend that they agree with the content of the draft Terms of Reference</b></p>
4.	<p><u>Next meeting</u></p> <p>It was agreed that meetings would take place on a quarterly basis, starting at 6:30pm and lasting for up to 90 minutes.</p> <p>It was suggested that the next meeting should take place towards the end of September / early October with the third to be in the New Year towards the end of January (dates to be agreed with members over email).</p> <p>It was suggested that future meetings could have specific areas of focus e.g. transport, skills &amp; employment, etc. with members able to make suggestions. It was agreed that the next meeting would focus on skills &amp; employment.</p>	<p><b>LT to circulate date of next meeting</b></p>

<p>5.</p>	<p><u>Transport</u></p> <p>NS stated that Southfleet Parish Council’s concerns revolve around lack of definition on traffic volumes, public transport provisions and the impact of roadworks. Also requested clarification on whether there will be roadworks and new roundabouts south of the A2.</p> <p>CC explained that the transport studies take into account existing and proposed future traffic volumes. This includes working with Highways England to ensure joined up thinking on the Bean Junction and improvements to the A2.</p> <p>GM observed that the EDC had stated at a meeting that they have an appetite for the extension of Crossrail and are also keen on Fast Track. He was concerned that the model shown during the stage four public consultation events showed an 8 lane access road. DT clarified that it was 4 lanes, two in each direction.</p> <p>MC queried if Paramount had missed the launch of Lord Heseltine’s Thames Estuary Commission Call for Ideas, as it would be important to feed into the consultation. DT confirmed that London Paramount has been invited to respond.</p> <p>DW enquired as to whether it was true that Highways England is ignoring the traffic generation from London Paramount in planning its upgrades to the Ebbsfleet and Bean junctions of the A2, until the Resort DCO planning application is submitted. CC explained that whilst Highways England will have a London Paramount scenario, a non-London Paramount scenario and one that includes the potential benefits of the Lower Thames Crossing they shall only be consulting on a scenario that takes into account permitted development.</p> <p>BR stated that he is in favour of Fast Track but concerned that changes to bus routes mean residents are losing existing services. DM applauded proposals to create a link between the Garden City and Bluewater and shared his view that the extension of Crossrail further east was discarded due to increasing electricity values. DM explained that a key concern is road improvements occurring after new developments take place.</p> <p>It was noted that these meetings are one of a number of mechanisms where London Paramount can understand wider concerns. DT stated that FastTrack is an EDC responsibility.</p> <p>SC raised concerns that Swanscombe is already busy with lots of cars and on street parking meaning that buses struggle to get through. People living in the vicinity of the resort who would be less inclined to use public transport will be aware of increasing traffic in Swanscombe. CC responded that there will be a dedicated Resort Access Road and that EDC needs to review parking in the area as part of its sustainable</p>	
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	<p>transport policy. SC responded that Swanscombe seems to have been forgotten with no money being ploughed into improving the area and feeling a sense of being surrounded by development.</p> <p>RD queried how London Paramount proposes to link transport north of the Thames. CC responded to explain that there are a number of transport connections both existing and proposed including HS1, the north Kent line, 'park and glide' from Grays and an extension of Thames Clipper services from central London to the resort site.</p> <p>MC commented that Thurrock is keen to put money into connections between the north and the south of the river, especially considering that Grays is the closest station.</p> <p>GM queried when a decision on the Lower Thames Crossing would be made. DT advised that he believed a decision will be announced in the Chancellor's Autumn Statement.</p> <p>DT confirmed the London Paramount commitment to working with the Garden City in relation to public transport, with the Fast Track proposals intrinsic to this. DT confirmed that current plans do not envisage either roadworks or roundabouts south of the A2 and explained that the site was chosen due to its location in respect of river and rail provision. The extension of Crossrail is a longer term lobbying campaign.</p> <p>CC mentioned that EDC has a strategic transport group which is made up of representatives from the following organisations: Highways England, Network Rail, DfT, the Lower Thames Crossing, KCC, DBC and GBC, High Speed 1, the Port of London Authority, and major developers such as EIGP, London Paramount and Land Securities. DM responded that this is positive news and it should be shared.</p>	
6.	<p><u>Skills &amp; employment</u></p> <p>GM stated an enthusiasm for a meeting to focus on skills &amp; employment. CC commented that EDC are establishing a group to undertake a 'skills forecast' in order to understand the demand that will be created through the new developments.</p> <p>SC questioned whether London Paramount has visited schools. CC stated that a programme of school visits has not started but London Paramount recently participated in an event at Ebbsfleet Academy to engage students with the masterplanning process and in part also to discuss what jobs would be available.</p> <p>RD suggested skills programmes need to be put in place now. DW stated that construction companies tend to arrive with workers rather than</p>	

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	<p>employ locally.</p> <p>RD queried whether there was a body that oversees all the development in the area. CC responded that there are a number of groups looking at different areas within the developments such as the strategic transport group mentioned earlier and a Consultation Group that coordinates public engagement events.</p>	
7.	<p><u>END</u></p> <p>Meeting closed at 7.30pm</p>	