



MEETING NOTES

10th Jan 2008 – Working Men’s College (Main Hall)

Chair – Del Brenner

Present: 20

Anna Strongman (Argent); Oliver Benelt (Argent); Robert Evans (Argent); Sue Lawrence (LCA/Argent) Phil Jeffries (Cally Rail Group); Hugh Lake (C Sq CAAC); Stephan Schulte (York Central Resident); Aileen Hammond (Camden Civic Society); Angela Inglis (KXDF); Linda Clarke (University Westminster); Diana Shelley (Cally Rail Group); Richard Gethin (King’s Cross Development Public Liaison Manager); Ian Lerner (?); Miranda Martin (Churchway TRA); Ruth Duston (Primera Corporation); Peter Lush (Training Link); John Chamberlain (Camden Cycling Campaign); Satnam Gill (WMC); Peter Coppack (Cally Rail Group/KXDF); Del Brenner (Regents Network)

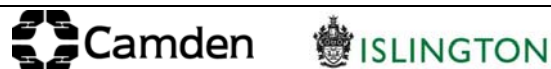
In attendance:

Richard Kirby (LB Camden); David Reidy (LB Camden); Andrew Conner (LB Camden); Sandi Philips (LB Camden); Pascal Coyne (LB Islington)

Apologies:

Geoffrey Roper, Rob Inglis, Michael Edwards, Helia Evans

Issue	Action
<p><u>Notes of meeting held 15/11/07:</u></p> <p>Agreed no matters arising.</p>	



Employment and Training:

Guest Speakers:

Sandi Philips (LBC), Andrew Conner (LBC), Robert Evans (Argent)
Ruth Duston (Consultant for Argent) Pascal Coyne (LBI)

Robert Evans outlined Argent's proposals for both construction training and post-construction training. He introduced Ruth Duston who was previously involved with Paddington Basin. Paddington First was an exemplary project that had introduced new and effective approaches to job brokerage/ skills and recruitment schemes. Argent's approach was to take the best from Paddington and at the same time address the perceived flaws.

Robert handed out plans and presented Argent's planning application for a new construction training centre on the Triangle. The proposal was for a demountable building that would move around the site over the life of the development. This was bigger than the 600m² required by the S106. The intention is that it will open this Autumn with 100 trainees and will be a "flagship training centre".

An important feature of Argent's approach is the involvement of contractors. It is essential that these projects are employer-led; this ensures that trainees are kept in the "supply chain".

End-use employment training is more problematic, "we can't guess the needs of future occupiers but the scale of the development means a broad economy".

Ruth Duston explained the complex partnership at Paddington and how this resulted in Paddington First being set up. In three years 3000 local people were placed in jobs. The key to success was screening and meeting the needs of both employers and client groups. Delivering a good service to employers resulted in "repeat business", and it was a free service (local employment agencies charge fees). Pitfalls of Paddington were companies relocating and bringing staff with them, and that there was no dedicated centre (there will be at King's Cross).

Pascal Coyne explained the problems experienced by Islington. For example construction training at the Emirates Stadium promised much but delivered little; this was because of the huge number of sub

contractors, which undermined local employment. Placing a 4-year apprenticeship is difficult when many of the contracts are for a short period (some teams were only on site for six weeks).

Sandi Philips and Andrew Conner outlined the existing KX working arrangements. Camden Islington and the LDA are working together to tackle worklessness in the wider KX area.

Questions/Comments:

Hugh Lake made a comment from an Registered Social Landlord (RSL) perspective. There is a need to match people and jobs. RSL landlords need to know what's available. Incidence of unemployment in social housing should to be managed. Successful communities are balanced communities. Too high unemployment in an estate, particularly amongst the young, leads to it becoming or being known as a "sink estate". RSL's need to be involved in employment issues.

A construction training specialist from the audience stressed the need to match skills to jobs, it's no good giving training if there is no job at the end. For example Heathrow Terminal 5 focussed on traditional trades, but construction has moved on e.g. concrete working needs three years training. Also there is a need to overcome the prejudice that construction training is low level skill, e.g the Olympics set up a training academy which offered one week's training.

Robert Evans responded. He referred to the so-called "biblical trades" which tend to be favoured by funding bodies. There is demand for lots of new highly specialised "trades", dry lining, specialist roofing etc for example Otis the lift company are seeking to set up specialist training. The intention at KX is to not only focus on the traditional trades. On the housing issue he referred to the Local Lettings Plan (LLP), which was designed to avoid the problems of sink estates. Argent is already working with an RSL who see the LLP as a positive measure.

Comments on University of the Arts planning application.

Del Brenner tabled written comments from the last meeting. There was a heated discussion about whether the views of the last meeting were reflected in the comments. Most people were concerned at the negative comments regarding the proposed bridges and the impact on the canal basin.

This was not the “unanimous view of the meeting” but one issue raised. Some people were not opposed to bridges and indeed the loss of the basin was not an issue for them. It was agreed that Del redraft the comments to reflect the wider view. Diana Shelley wanted these comments to be included in the report rather than précised by officers.

Planning Response Team

This remains outstanding.

Nominations for membership are Richard Lee, Hugh Lake, Del Brenner and Michael Edwards.

New nominations are Peter Copack (from Cally Rail), Ian Lerner and Peter Darley.

Report Back on Consultative Design Panel

Presentation of T1. Del described how this is driven by the need to provide CHP plant. Del expressed concern about the impact on the canal. He was also concerned about confusion regarding the nature of the outline planning permission.

Construction, Communication and Consultation

Phil Jeffries tabled a short paper. Because the meeting had already over run he was able to give only a short presentation. The meeting endorsed the paper.

Richard Lee asked for outreach work to involve the local estates, which might be effected by construction nuisance. He suggested a “road show” to the effected estates.

Dates For Forum Meetings:

- 6th March '08, 7pm-9pm (Venue TBC)
- 22nd May '08
- 10th July '08
- AGM 18th Sept '08 (or 11th Sept)
- 13th November '08 (or 20th Nov)

