

MINUTES OF GREENWICH PARTNERSHIP BOARD MEETING

Held on 23rd March 2006, at The Forum @ Greenwich in Lovell
Hall, Trafalgar Road, London, SE10 9EQ

Partners Present:

Cllr. Peter Brooks (Chair)	Greenwich Council
Cllr. Angela Cornforth (AC)	Greenwich Council
Kevin Bright (KB)	Business Sector
Sadhu Biring (SB)	Business Sector
Paul Russell (PR)	Business Sector
Jigs Chana (JCh)	Business Sector
Judy Smith (JS)	Greenwich Community Network
Rosa Goncalves (RG)	Greenwich Community Network
Tom McCormack (TMc)	Public Sector (Hexagon Housing)
Brian Cherek (BC)	Public Sector (Police)

Advisors Present:

Makan Bajwa (MB)	GCRE
------------------	------

Observers Present:

Mary Ney (MN)	Chief Executive (LBG)
Patrick Elliott (PE)	Neighbourhood Renewal (LBG)
Mike Smith (MS)	Community Safety (LBG)
Mike Hows (MH)	Strategic Planning (LBG)
Emma Williams (EW)	Strategic Planning (LBG)
Graham Verge (GV)	Local Area Agreement (LBG)
Michelle Rankin (MR)	GLLAB
Jill Crumpton (JC)	Greenwich Partnership
Carol Barnes (CB)	Greenwich Partnership
David Sherrington (DS)	Greenwich Partnership
Pauline O'Hare (PH)	NDRP

Speakers Present:

David Cambell (DC)	CEO AEG
Tobin Prior (TP)	CEO Kerzner International UK
Jerry Hosea (JH)	Kerzner International UK
Tim Rawlin (TR)	AEG
Rosa D'Alessandro (RD)	AEG

1a. Welcome & Introductions

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and introductions were made around the table

1b. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr. Chris Roberts, Cllr. Peter Kotz, Cllr. Vicky Morse, Peter Lowton (Police), Michael Chuter (PCT), Martyn Coe (Greenwich Community Network), Wendy Dibdin MBE (GAD), David McCollum (Greenwich Council), Harcourt Alleyne (Greenwich Council), Heather Scotcher (LDA).

1c. Minutes of the meeting of 8th December 2005

The minutes of the meetings held on 8th December were agreed as a true record.

1d. Matters Arising

- 1d.i) JC circulated a paper on the Local Area Agreement (LAA) for information. The paper was produced in response to a request from the previous Board meeting for more information about the Access to Employment & Skills Development LAA targets.

2a. Development of O2

David Cambell (DC) from Anschutz Entertainment Group (AEG) gave a presentation on the future development of the Greenwich Peninsula Leisure and Entertainment Quarter.

AEG's main business is building and running world-class arenas for sport and music. Kerzner International builds integrated destination resorts and casinos.

The Greenwich Peninsula will be developed into a leisure and entertainment quarter featuring a piazza, the David Beckham Academy, O2 (Dome – arena and entertainment district), Hotel and optioned buildings. AEG are trying to create an entertainment district with a "Times Square" effect to give day and night appeal, to sustain interest for overseas and overnight visitors.

The O2 arena will host 150 events a year – 100 music, 25 sports, 25 children and family events. It will also host the 2012 Olympics basketball and gymnastics events and the 2009 World Gymnastics competition.

The site will be an integrated development including: O2 live music club, cinemas, theatre (negotiating with Cirque du Soleil), O2 exhibition centre (Tutankhamun exhibition Nov 2007), British Music Experience, O2 ice pad, regional casino, bars, restaurants, cafes.

The regional casino is subject to licensing agreement. The Gambling Act stipulates that only one regional casino can be built in the UK per year. The Gambling Commission will develop a code of practice for the casino to protect vulnerable people. There will be no credit offered and the casino will be on the third floor.

The hotel will incorporate a new pier, up to 350 rooms, a Sky bar, spas and swimming pool. In total there will be £600M of private investment.

All Board members were invited to a hardhat tour of the O2. JC agreed that an invite would be circulated to the Board.

Action: JC

Questions were invited:

- The Chair asked whether AEG and Kerzner had joined the Chamber of Commerce. JC thought that AEG had joined.
- JCh asked about procedures in place for an emergency situation such as flooding. AEG responded that engineers are advising on the means of escape in relation to fire. Each building will have its own emergency strategy. Floods can be predicted and as the Dome is upstream of the Thames Barrier, the risk was greatly reduced. The Chair stated that there would need to be a springtide and north-easterly wind to flood buildings downstream of the Barrier and there would be at least a 20-hour warning.
- JCh asked about jobs for the local community, as previous work on the Peninsula did not produce as many local contracts as predicted. The local community needs to be sustained.

and economic development should be made more aware of this.

PR added that if the Borough could get good employment, many of the other social ills would disappear. GLLAB is funded by section 106 agreement and a small developer would get charged £7K to go through GLLAB.

- The increase in development on the Peninsula site and the redevelopment of the Borough's town centres will put additional pressure on the roads and parking, particularly around Blackwall Lane and the Old Hospital site.

JS asked Strategic Planning if they had done a traffic impact study and they said no.

The Chair said that the Council was working on traffic issues.

- TMc asked if the new Greenwich Strategy was on target for 2006.

JC said that progress had slipped a little but that a public sector conference had been organised for April. Similar events would be organised with the business and voluntary sectors in the autumn and the Board would be kept informed.

- MB said that Asian communities suffer disproportionately from certain ailments compared with other communities and asked if this would be reflected in the targets around health.

The Chair added that the sizeable black African population would also need to be considered.

MN said that the consultation process with residents had picked up many of these concerns and that one of the tasks in hand was to produce a strategy for consultation with business sector and voluntary sector partners. She explained that the general process was to take the outcomes of all consultation rounds and sit down with current service providers to see how they are going to target 2010 and 2020. There needs to be a lot of work done with the LAA to see how different partnerships can be coordinated to deliver and direct change.

- BC said that the Safer Neighbourhoods teams will go live on 3rd April 2006 to help tackle the fear of crime in the Borough.

MB asked whether the police would be using CCTV to assist.

BC responded that CCTV was the Council's concern and that it would be difficult to get CCTV Borough wide.

MS said that the Council had invested heavily in the Safer Neighbourhood teams and has funded an additional team on the Ferrier Estate. Resources have been doubled for anti-social behaviour and the Council has strengthened its internal structure by creating a directorate of Community Safety. "Operation Grape" was successfully introduced to tackle street violence from the change in pub licensing laws. It will take time to change people's perception of crime but statistics are showing a downward trend in numbers.

RG said that people have noticed a change in the levels of crime and are feeling safer, but efforts need to be concentrated further.

2c. Development of Partnership and Community Engagement Arrangements

MN presented the paper on the development of community engagement and partnership working arrangements. It is an early paper and does not solve all the problems; comments were welcomed from Board members.

Community Engagement – There are lots of different forums in the Borough for engagement purposes and the Council is starting to get feedback that it is uncoordinated. Different public sector providers cannot get to all forums and it is often the 'usual suspects' who get consulted. The paper proposes an events based approach to community engagement, working in partnership with other service providers. Partners will be able to listen to public concerns together, formal consultation can take place in an interactive and coordinated way. Events can be fun and linked to existing popular events such as the Christmas light up and summer festivals. Cabinet has agreed to discuss the paper with partners to see whether different agencies would like to get involved.

Development of Partnership Arrangements – The paper proposes to make the LSP stronger by linking it to other partnerships in the Borough. It proposes to change the membership of the LSP and make it more accountable to ensure that the Greenwich Strategy is delivered. There should be an LAA sub, similar to NR sub. There are also gaps in existing partnerships, such as environment and housing, which need to be addressed.

Questions were invited:

- JS asked why the cultural forum was given more representation than other forums. She also suggested combining the LAA and NR subs, as they would be focusing on the same issues. The LAA sub does not have community representation and it should have.

MN agreed to note the proposal of a combined LAA and NR subgroup.

- RG referred to point 5.1 on the paper and asked to what level the community would be involved in decision making.

MN said that in NR and Housing Capital Programme panels, community reps had been involved in decision making over resources.

- PR said that the reporting structure was not clear.

MN said that the paper is moving towards a reporting structure, as there are a number of 'must-dos' coming down from central government.

- JCh said that in the feedback he gave to the ODPM consultation paper, he identified a number of different issues that the partnership needs to strengthen in terms of accountability and affordability. The four sectors need to have a separate meeting to identify how they could engage in the different blocks of the LAA. At the moment, the paper is a working document but there needs to be a separate meeting of the LSP to thrash through its implications.
- PR said that the report has not been agreed by the LSP and asked whether further consultation would take place.

The Chair asked for the paper to be amended as “for consultation”

ACTION: MN

3a) Local Area Agreement (LAA)

GV presented the paper on the LAA and said that they were currently going through the annual refresh process. The LAA is now one year down the line from its original agreement. The paper also presents a second generation Local Public Service Agreement (LPSA) which could yield several million pounds if Greenwich is able to achieve it.

3b) Neighbourhood Renewal

PE presented a paper on NR priorities for 2006-8 and said that Sector Chairs had agreed it on 17th February 2006. NR has been awarded £11.4M funding and the report sets out the agreed priorities for the next 5 years. Page 8 shows that the largest amount of support is going to Children and Families. The paper also proposes to change the role of NR panels to support them to play a bigger role in crosscutting themes.

4. Any Other Business

- 4.i) JS commented on the formatting problems with some of the papers and stated that someone needs to go through the reports to check for formatting errors in the future.

5. Dates of future meetings 2006

The dates of Greenwich Partnership Sector Chairs were noted:

Greenwich Partnership Sector Chairs Group at 8.30a.m. In Committee Room A, Town Hall

Fri 28th April 2006
Fri 1st September 2006
Fri 10th November 2006

The Greenwich Partnership Board Meeting dates were noted:

Greenwich Partnership Board Meetings at 6.00p.m.

