



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Trust Talk

November 2010

Welcome to 'Trust Talk', the newsletter which keeps you in touch with what's going on at Trust Thamesmead and in our community.

TRUST CHAIR FEARS IMPACT OF GOVERNMENT CUTS

In launching the Trust's latest Annual Report and Review, Board Chair Vic Grimes spoke of the impact that the public spending cuts announced by the Government are likely to have on some of south east London's most disadvantaged communities.



Trust Chair Vic Grimes (above)

He said that the cuts announced in the Budget in June are already hurting and he expected the pain to increase following the announcement that public spending is to be cut by £83bn over the next four years.

The cuts announced by the Chancellor include a further reduction of the welfare budget of £7bn a year, a 7.1% annual cut in local council budgets and the news that about 490,000 public sector jobs are likely to be lost over the next four years.

Mr Grimes said: "To my mind two significant things flow from this; the first is that organisations like the Trust become even more important and secondly in times of crisis we need to think differently, be much more innovative and come up with creative, new solutions.

"Few of us yet know or understand what David Cameron's 'Big Society' really means or what threats and or opportunities it offers, despite the announcement that there will be Government support for citizenship and 'Big Society' projects. However, it is clear that the state is withdrawing and, as such, our expectation of what our Government can deliver must reduce and communities will need to learn or re-learn what self-reliance and community support means.

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“Through the 40 year plus history of Thamesmead our residents have very often had to fall back on their own resources and networks when normal public service provision failed.

“In previous years I have been at pains to emphasise the potential significance of the work that the Trust has done to promote and help build a Bexley and Greenwich cross-borough Regeneration Strategy for Thamesmead. We have seen this as key to bringing in the significant level of public funding that it is very clear to us that Thamesmead needs if it is to finally flourish and be the place where more and more people put down roots and have their needs addressed.

“The recession, banking crisis and public sector cuts all serve to further underpin my previous position; Thamesmead still needs major investment in transport, education, housing, health and the public realm. Perhaps our overall case is as strong as anywhere else in London or the South East.

“We clearly live in different, difficult and very uncertain times and there is no doubt we need a renewed focus on building self-reliance, strong local networks and greater community ownership and influence over our local services.”

Turning to the Trust’s Annual Report Mr Grimes continued: “In reviewing last year’s work I was particularly pleased to see the increasing numbers of people we supported into work, our clear commitment to train local people to do it for themselves and our insistence that local people are fully involved in our key projects.



“Since April 2009 we have achieved a great deal. Some of our key successes include securing the funding and beginning the construction of Sporting Club Thamesmead, which will open next spring.

“Following the successful grant of £5m from myplace ‘in principle’ for The Link Thamesmead, our world class youth and community facility in the arches under Harrow Manor Way flyover, we secured the ‘full award’ so that we will have this wonderful new facility open by the end of next year.

The Trust’s Annual Report & Review 2009-10 is out now

“We have redoubled our efforts to ensure that local projects and organisations are best placed to enhance their services, activities and projects in a sustainable manner, and in a way that benefits the local community, by appointing a Head of Social Enterprise last January.

“Health issues have been brought to the forefront of our work by setting up the Health and Well-Being Partnership Forum, which is both delivering new outreach services across Thamesmead and bringing improved co-ordination across the borough boundary.

“We have supported the development of two new Children’s Centres in West and Central Thamesmead following our pivotal role in establishing a service in East Thamesmead at Greenmead Community Centre.

“The Trust has also helped to establish a new Safer Neighbourhood Team presence in the Town Centre and worked with Gallions Housing Association and the Police to establish a permanent and local presence in Thamesmead East.

“The environment is also important and we are working with partners to deliver a plan on how Thamesmead’s rich canal system can be improved and, through Growing Greenwich, have secured a commission to look into the viability of setting up an Urban Farm in Thamesmead.

“We have also engaged with a large number of local groups to gain a clearer picture of the community sector in Thamesmead and how we and the two borough community voluntary services (BVSC and GAVS) can together support them.

“We live in exciting if very uncertain times. If you feel you share our passion and commitment to Thamesmead, social justice and creating opportunities for all our residents and you believe you have something to offer then I would like to hear from you.”

You can contact Vic Grimes by emailing his PA Helen Webb: hwebb@trust-thamesmead.co.uk and can download a copy of the Annual Report & Review at www.trust-thamesmead.co.uk

Building Work Starts on The Link Thamesmead

It’s been a very busy few months for the project team working on the redevelopment of the Southern Arches under the Harrow Manor flyover, culminating in Grehan, the main contractors, moving in during October to start work on the project which will open in late 2011.



The project, formerly known as the youth leisure zone, has now been given a new name following an extensive consultation and engagement exercise.

It will now be known as **‘The Link Thamesmead’** where young people and the wider community will be able to make a connection with each other and a fantastic range of services and activities.

Left: Artist’s impression of exterior of The Link Thamesmead

There are plans to keep all interested parties up-to-date with a monthly newsletter, featuring news on the build programme, features on delivery partners, contributions from Thamesmead Youth Voice and details of the facilities and services that will be available at The Link so if you would like to receive these updates please let us know.

Sporting Club Thamesmead



Panoramic view with multi-use games area (left) and New Generation pitch (right)

Construction on the site in Bayliss Avenue is making good progress despite losing several weeks building time due to the collapse of Haymills, the original main contractor.

Project Manager Dawn Young said: “The Haymills collapse was very disappointing, however, thanks to swift action from the project team we were quickly able to appoint a new main contractor, Quadric, and work is now moving on well, although we have put back our opening date to around Easter next year.”

Recently a small group of people involved in the development of Sporting Club Thamesmead were given the opportunity to go on a guided tour hosted by our team of architects, to see how the project is progressing. Dawn said: “The visit enabled everyone to see the project come off the page of the architects’ plans and become reality as you can see from the photo above. Inside we were able to see The Studio (the multi-use room), which was much larger than many of us expected. It is actually big enough to be divided into two so that more than one activity or club can use the space at the same time.

“Upstairs there will be two public areas, The Mead Match Day Lounge and The Bayliss Suite, with pretty much floor to ceiling glazing on all four sides from where you can see Thamesview Golf Club, the club’s three Crossway grass football pitches and, further away, Phoenix House, the new Gallions Housing development on the former Boiler House site. We also heard about some of the building materials that are being used, where great care has been taken in selecting as many environmentally friendly ones as possible. These include solar panels, insulation made out of recycled car windscreens and sunken water reservoirs for storing rain water which will in turn be used for flushing the toilets.”

Welcome to the team Kay

Meanwhile Kay Skelton has joined the SCT project team as Centre Manager. She takes up her post following more than ten years experience in the Leisure and Sport industry in a senior management role.

Her main expertise is in the development of partnerships and ensuring the whole community can access leisure and sport facilities. She has developed initiatives ranging from older people's activities to anti-social behaviour projects for young people; grass roots football and identifying talent.

Kay says her appointment at Sporting Club Thamesmead is her dream job, combining all her professional expertise with her love of football. "It's been a whirlwind since I joined but I am really enjoying it," she said. "I'm working to develop partnerships to enable us to deliver a high quality, wide ranging programme of activities and I met with the London Football Association recently; they were very impressed with the facility and are working with us to provide access to the whole community.

"It's looking very good with soccer schools, 5-a-side leagues, dance, aerobics, body combat, under 5s play, birthday parties and coaching courses – and that's just the start.

"More recently I have been out and about visiting a number of football clubs and sports facilities to get an idea of what other people are doing. I was made very welcome at Harlow Town FC and was shown round their amazing facility; they have built something very similar to what we will have so it was good to see how it all works, I got some great ideas and some very good advice.

"Thamesmead Town FC Chairman Mark Lee and I have also been working on some sponsorship deals with local businesses so we are keeping our fingers crossed that we'll be successful in that area too."

Kay says she is keen to meet with people who are interested in offering activities at Sporting Club Thamesmead so please get in touch with her if you are one of them. You can call Kay on 07817 311 712 or email kkelton@sportingclubthamesmead.co.uk

New Board Member

The Trust has also welcomed a new member to our Board with the appointment of Tony Joanes. Tony, a civil servant at the Department of Transport, is a resident of Manor Close in North Thamesmead.

The Trust currently has a number of trustee vacancies especially, but not exclusively, for people with knowledge of the commercial sector and experience in the areas of financial and risk management. If you would like to find out more about becoming a trustee for the Trust please contact Chief Executive Mick Hayes on 020 8320 4470 or email mhayes@trust-thamesmead.co.uk

The Met supports Thamesmead Youth Voice Graffiti Art Project

More than 100 young people took part in a graffiti art project in the ball court at Wolvercote Road thanks to Thamesmead East Safer Neighbourhood Team who agreed to help pay for the project through the Police Property Act Fund.

The project, which was also supported by the Cory Foundation, was organised by Thamesmead Youth Voice with support from the Trust.

It was a real community effort, which began when the Trust received an email from budding artist 19 year old Darren Wells, who travels to Thamesmead every day for work, with the idea of brightening up the area with a form of art. The idea was then taken to Thamesmead Youth Voice who liked it and chose graffiti as the art form.

Darren, who co-ordinated the project, said: "This has been a real learning curve for me. It was manic on the first day but by day two we got people working in teams and we could see the back wall taking shape. It was fantastic to see the progression in confidence and ability in the young people as the days went on."



Fifteen year old Thamesmead Youth Voice member Jerusha Frimpong, whose sister also attended, said:

"I enjoyed working with friends and others I had never met before in improving the look of the ball court for young people."

Thamesmead Youth Voice at the Graffiti Art Project

The Trust's Community Development Manager Janice Jones, who works closely with TYV, added: "The three days were a great success. The project not only gave young people new skills and experiences, it also gave them the chance to take ownership of the ball court and will lead to forward planning with our partners in establishing a young persons' programme including usage of the ball court."

Thamesmead Schools Come Together



Primary schools in Thamesmead came together in the early summer for the annual Trust Thamesmead seven-a-side Matthew Clarke Football Tournament.

Jointly organised by Thamesmead Town Football Club it was the 12th year the Matthew Clarke festival of football has taken place and featured 120 pupils from 12 primary schools all bidding to win the much sought after prize.

This year the tournament took on a FIFA 2010 World Cup theme with each school representing a different country.

So congratulations to semi-finalists Hawksmoor, St Margaret Clitherow, Parkway and Jubilee who each represented Mexico, Germany, France and Brazil respectively and a special well-done to Jubilee who not only entered the competition for the first time, they also won!

A date has already been set for the 2011 tournament so make a note in your diaries for 16 June 2011 when the tournament will be held for the first time at Sporting Club Thamesmead, the home of Thamesmead Town FC in Bayliss Avenue.

Pupils Had a T'riffic Time

As the summer term drew to a close schools in Thamesmead yet again embraced the T'riffic Thamesmead education/heritage project.

In West Thamesmead Heronsgate Primary School worked on activities both inside and outside the classroom, as teacher Sarah Day, told us: "Our Year 6 children began the project by looking at old photos and newspaper cuttings from the T'riffic Thamesmead resource pack which they found fascinating.

"A really exciting element of the project was that the children got to redesign the shopping area across the road from the school and discussed ideas for the regeneration of this area. They also went on a trip to Southmere Lake and as most of them had never experienced anything like this were very excited so thanks to the Trust for supporting them.

"They wrote diary entries and recounts of their experiences with several of them commenting that the project provided some of their most treasured memories from their time at Heronsgate.

Meanwhile over in Central Thamesmead it was the turn of pupils from Hawksmoor Primary School where sixty 10-11 year olds from the school in Bentham Road took part in the project, as Year 6 class teacher Kemi Okhani explained: "Our theme this year was to 'sell' Thamesmead to young people and their families.

"It was a great project because although most of them had little interest in the subject at the beginning, by the end they were brimming with enthusiasm and saw the area in a totally different light. They produced a radio advert, visited the local parks, went kayaking on Southmere Lake and questioned local people to find out what they would like to see in Thamesmead by visiting two other local schools and the supermarket in the Town Centre."

Having first passed their cycling proficiency tests thirty of the youngsters completed the project with a bike ride to Firepower in Woolwich. The Trust's Head of Communications, Elaine Johnson, went along to the school to see them off. "They were all so excited to be going out for the day", said Elaine "but before setting off they told me about all the things they'd done, even singing their radio ad to the tune of 'My Favourite Things'.

They were then presented with their T’riffic Thamesmead badges which make lovely souvenirs but it’s the value of the experiences and knowledge they gain from the project that should not be underestimated.”

The resources developed for T’riffic Thamesmead are also being put to good use in an innovative new project designed to support children’s learning in Thamesmead. ‘The Creative Learning Project’, a Saturday school based at Woolwich Polytechnic, is designed to provide a selected group of primary pupils with practical opportunities for real life learning experiences, focusing on Literacy and Numeracy.

Summer Activity Days Round-up

The Thamesmead Extended Schools Cluster Group’s Summer Activity Days, which were supported by the Trust, reached around 1000 families in Thamesmead during August. With everything from fun activities, sports and service providers on hand to provide fun and entertainment in one of Thamesmead’s green, open spaces, as well as the Trust’s International Youth Day event at Woolwich Poly, the group managed to more than meet its three objectives which were:



- Providing interesting and exciting activities for Thamesmead families
- Strengthening partnership work
- For schools to address the fallback in literacy and numeracy, in a fun and informative way

The Thamesmead Extended Schools Cluster Group is made up of all the primary and secondary schools on the Greenwich side of Thamesmead and Michelle Harris, who coordinated the summer programme of activities, said: “The month-long series of events went really well, with the sign-up for the Thursday and Friday events proving very popular and often full to capacity.”

The Trust’s Head of Community Development David Stone added: “The Extended Schools events meant we could engage with a diverse range of people and families and were able to raise awareness of our capital projects Sporting Club Thamesmead and The Link Thamesmead as well as other Trust events and projects.

“In the process we have collected names from people who want to be involved either through volunteering, or by joining a neighbourhood group or the Trust’s Community Forum. Particular thanks to Greenwich PCT, Greenwich Council’s Recycling Team, Active Kids, and the many other groups that supported the event.”

Thamesmead Health and Wellbeing Partnership Forum

In the last edition of Trust Talk we told you about the creation of the Thamesmead Health and Wellbeing Partnership Forum which is working together in a cross borough strategic manner to address health inequalities in Thamesmead and to facilitate, support and advocate programmes, projects and health services to address identified needs. Since then much progress has been made with a number of successful initiatives having taken place.

Examples of these are the two 'Good Choices Days' which have taken place at the Trust's Acorn and Arnott pre-schools which aimed to promote health by informing parents and children about making good choices in eating, exercise, learning, personal health and community and home safety in a fun and accessible way.

Then building on the success of the existing fruit and vegetable stall which runs every Friday outside Arnott pre-school a second one has been launched outside Discovery School in West Thamesmead. The stall, which is open every Thursday from 11:00am-3:30pm, is also a joint partnership between the Trust and the Greenwich Community Food Coop and has been an immediate success.

Canal Clean-Ups

The Trust has launched a new staff volunteering initiative and throughout the summer worked in partnership with Thames21 on a project to improve the appearance of Butts Canal which runs alongside the Trust's offices in the Town Centre. Several clean up days have already taken place with more planned but during just one session more than half a ton of rubbish that was collected from in and alongside the canal including bottles, cans, catalogues, supermarket trollies, garden parasols, two televisions and a table!!

The Trust is keen to work with residents who may wish to join in and help to keep the waterways and surrounding areas safe and attractive so if you know of any group of residents who would like to adopt a small stretch of the canal near to their home ask them to contact David Stone at the Trust on 020 8320 4470 or email dstone@trust-thamesmead.co.uk.

Free Community Development Training

In conjunction with Greenwich Community College, Trust Thamesmead has successfully delivered Community Development training for local residents and dates for the next series of daytime courses have now been confirmed. If you, or someone you know, would be interested in either the Community Development Taster Course, which starts on 3 November, and runs for five weeks or the Community Development Level 1 Accredited Course, which starts on 11 November and runs for seven weeks, contact Sarah Feleppa at the Trust on 020 8320 4490 for more information.

Passing of a True Friend of Thamesmead

During the summer we received the sad news of the death of Professor Peter Higgins OBE. Peter, who was one of the first GPs in Thamesmead, and wrote the Foreword to the 2nd Edition of the Trust's book 'A Social History of Thamesmead', was the driving force behind the publication of the first book.

Dr Valerie Wigfall, the author of both books, said of Peter: "He set up the first General Practice surgery in Thamesmead in the early 1970s, eventually becoming one of the senior partners at Lakeside Health Centre, before going on to a distinguished career at Guys Hospital as Professor of General Practice.

"His commitment to the community in Thamesmead extended far beyond his medical practice; he worked tirelessly to improve the lives of the families who came to live here. He leaves an enduring legacy for present and future generations in the form of the historical archive of Thamesmead and 'A Social History of Thamesmead', both of which came about largely thanks to his vision and perseverance. As the author of the book, I feel privileged to have known and worked with Peter; he was a very special person. I feel sure that many people in Thamesmead will remember him, not just as a doctor, but as a dear friend and a true supporter of the community."

Trust 2011 Calendar

The Trust's 2011 calendar is now available. It's free and you'll see it in many outlets around Thamesmead including our offices in the Town Centre and the local libraries. Copies are also going direct to schools so if you have a child of school age he or she will probably be bringing one home for you. If you have any problem finding a copy let us know.



And Finally

We hope you've enjoyed reading 'Trust Talk'. If you'd like to comment on any of the stories featured in this issue please contact the Editor Elaine Johnson. If you know of anyone who would like to be added to our circulation list please email her at ejohnson@trust-thamesmead.co.uk