

Community Forum Meeting

5th December 2006, 6.30pm

Attendees:

Mary Avery, Robertson Street Estate
Bob Bennett, Battersea Technology College
Cllr Diedre Church, Wandsworth Borough Council
Sgt David Cook, Battersea Police Station
Ruth Durbin, St James Barrie School
Helen Evans, Covent Garden Market Authority
David Evans, St John's Ambulance
Alan Gillam, Warriner Gardens
Cllr Vanessa Graham, Wandsworth Borough Council
Mark Hale, Nine Elms Pier Ltd
Harvey Heath, Battersea Society
May Home, Nina Elms Pier Ltd
David Lewis, Battersea Society
Ré Johnson, Chair
Lucy Mangua, Urban Voice UK
Cathy Martins, Robertson Street Estate
Haydn Mylchreest, Riverside Court, Nina Elms Lane
Jan Prebble, Dolphin Square
Marlene Price, Battersea Area Housing Forum
Sarah Rackham, Katherine Low Settlement
Robert Tipping, Nine Elms Pier Ltd
David Welch, Jobcentreplus - The Power Station Jobshop
Helen Werly, York Mansions, Prince of Wales Drive
John Woodhouse, Battersea Park Library
Philip Wright, The Friends of Battersea Park
Chris Wyatt, Wandsworth Chamber of Commerce

Victor Hwang
Vicky Hwang
Ian Rungay
Richard Tracey
Nina Telebak
Serpil Barrington-Serle

Apologies:

Harry Cowd, Chesterton Primary School
Robert Erskine, Wandsworth Borough Council
Pastor L Francis, Life Tabernacle U.P.C.
Jan Lloyd (sub), Covent Garden Market Authority
Judith Mitchell, Ingelow Road
Rev. David Gillman, Battersea Methodist
Gale Keller, Battersea Technology College
Martin Linton MP,
Mike Roberts, Economic Development Office, Wandsworth Council



**BATTERSEA
POWER STATION
COMMUNITY
FORUM**

Welcome and Introductions

Ré Johnson welcomed everyone to the Forum, and asked if everybody had received the agenda and press release which had been sent by post or email. Ré suggested that instead of following the agenda, there would be an open forum about the sale of the Battersea Power Station site to Real Estates Opportunities (REO) Limited. The Forum agreed. She then introduced Victor Hwang, present owner and President of Parkview, and his daughter Vicky Hwang, Parkview Director of Leasing, who came to address the Forum and answer any questions or concerns about the future of the Power Station. Ré also stated that the future of forum and way forward would also be discussed.

Green Plateau Presentation

Vicky Hwang gave a presentation about the Green Plateau concept for The Turbine Gardens, which provides for a series of 50m high roof gardens across the building's six acre footprint.

Philip Wright, The Friends of Battersea Park and David Lewis, Battersea Society both thanked Vicky Hwang for presenting this very imaginative concept to the Forum.

Q: Will children from local schools have an opportunity to contribute and get involved in the designing and working in the gardens? (Ruth Durbin, Sir James Barrie Primary School)

A: The gardens will cover 6 acres and there certainly will be a corner for children – the concept is intending to bring people back to the Power Station and instil the sense of community.

Q: Will REO carry on with this idea and bring the concept to reality? (Harvey Heath, The Battersea Society)

A: The Green Plateau was presented to the new owners who embraced it fully. Vicky Hwang stated that she will push it forward as hard as she can.

Q: What is the timescale? (Chris Wyatt, Chairman of Wandsworth Chamber of Commerce)

A: Parkview can't speak on behalf of the new owners.

Sale and Future Open Forum

Victor Hwang, Parkview President then addressed the Forum explaining the reason behind the sale and his hopes for the future. Mr Hwang said that while he would no longer be operationally involved, his family would retain a financial interest in the project. He explained that while a number of institutions and organisations wanted to become involved, REO had the best possible credentials for taking the project forward through their urban regeneration experience in Dublin and Shanghai and their hands-on management style. Mr Hwang said that he had no doubt that REO would deliver the world class destination that Battersea and London deserve.

Mr Hwang was roundly applauded. Cathy Martins, Chair of Robertson Street Residents Association thanked Mr Hwang for all his work. Ré Johnson also thanked and congratulated Mr Hwang for supporting the Forum during the past four years.

Q: Will the project be completed for the London 2012 Olympic Games? (Chris Wyatt, Chairman of Wandsworth Chamber of Commerce)

A: Current discussions with REO suggest that the Power Station building and 2 hotels will open first.

Q: Does Treasury Holdings plan to operate within the current planning permission? (David Lewis, The Battersea Society)

A: Parkview has made over 50 submissions over the years, consulted a lot of professionals in the process and it would be a shame to throw this away. Treasury Holdings have a lot of challenges in front of them, but a good basis to work from.

Q: What is the Mayor's position about the project? (David Lewis, The Battersea Society)

A: This project will add to the London's horizon. There have been many proposals from different investors with different aspirations, but to build something like residential homes in the Power Station building would be a wasted opportunity.

Q: Is Vicky Hwang staying on the project? (Ré Johnson, Forum Chair)

A: Vicky Hwang stated that she would like to, but that it seemed unlikely.

Q: Why did Parkview sell the site? (Harvey Heath, The Battersea Society)

A: Parkview has spent 13 years on the project, invested £200 million to deliver the vision and bring it to the preconstruction phase. REO has the best possible credentials to take the project forward and deliver the world class destination to Battersea and London.

Q: Would Treasury Holdings like to keep this forum? (Harvey Heath, The Battersea Society)

A: This is a public building, REO is a public company and this will make the process more transparent and the company more accountable.

Ré Johnson said that she had already written to REO expressing the view that it is important for the local community that the Forum continues. The Forum should stay on and enjoy the privileges it had with Parkview.

Q: What is the relationship between the Treasury Holdings and REO? (David Lewis, The Battersea Society)

A: Treasury Holdings is the majority shareholder in REO and its vehicle.

Q: When will the works start? (Cathy Martins, Chair of Robertson Street Association)

A: First phase of construction works will be the rebuilding of four chimneys. Parkview is currently working on the understanding that this will proceed in the first quarter of 2007. The exact date is not available.

Q: Has REO had a meeting with the Council?

A: Wandsworth Council have requested an early meeting with REO.

Q: Will the new Green Plateau Garden come to fruition?

A: It is only a concept at this stage

Q: Will Battersea Park Station be rebuilt?

A: REO inherits all the conditions set out in the planning consent.

Q: What employment insurances do Parkview staff have? (Harvey Heath, The Battersea Society)

A: The employees have been offered the opportunity to transfer to the new company pursuant with the Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of employment) Regulations (TUPE).

Chair and Deputy Chair Elections

Ré Johnson was re-elected as chairman for a fourth term and David Lewis of The Battersea Society was elected Deputy Chair. Both terms will last 1 year from the election. Ian Rungay thanked Ré Johnson for her hard work in the past year on behalf of Parkview and REO in the future and welcomed David Lewis.

Ré Johnson said that next year will be very interesting and challenging year and that she and David Lewis would be seeking an early meeting with hopefully REO. Next meeting will return to the standard schedule with usual presentations and the introduction of the new owners. Ré thanked Parkview for their hospitality and for the close relationship the Forum has had with Parkview over the past four years.

Any other Business

Marlene Price of The Battersea Area Housing Forum asked that the start time on the Agenda be changed to arrive at 6.00pm for start at 6.30pm. Philip Wright suggested that the attendee list on the Agenda contains the organisations each member represents. Vanessa Graham, Wandsworth Borough Council asked that the Forum website address is added to the agenda.

Ian Rumgay said the start time had always been 6.00pm for 6.30pm to allow members to network before hand and ensure a prompt start.

Ian Rumgay pointed out that a full list of members and the organisations they represent was on the website and the website address was on the agenda. Name badges will be provided at the next meeting.

Copies of the speech Victor Hwang gave to Parkview staff following the sale announcement were also available for members who were interested to read it.

Next meeting

The next meeting will be on Tuesday 13th March 2007. There will be refreshments and networking at 6.00pm, **the Forum meeting will start at 6.30pm.**