

Ebbsfleet Development Corporation

Board Meeting Part	One
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Date of meeting:	17 April 2019	Agenda item :	EDC 019/021
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Title of paper	Ebbsfleet Living
Prepared by	Ian Piper, Chief Executive Kevin McGeough, HNT Director
Sub-committee	Not applicable

Purpose of Paper and Executive Summary	
To update EDC Board on progress and activities related to community building in Ebbsfleet Garden City during March 2019.	
EDC business plan and KPIs	Matters covered will impact on some or all of the priorities within the business plan and associated KPIs
Recommendation	FOR INFORMATION The Board is asked to NOTE the update
Annexes	None
Delegation	Not applicable

Financial impact	Not applicable.
Legal impact	There are no legal implications associated with this paper.
Stakeholder impact	Not applicable.
Sponsor impact	Not applicable.

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1. Introduction to Ebbsfleet Living

1.1 March 2019 saw the conclusion of the NHS England directly funded phase of the Healthy New Town (HNT) Programme. This milestone gave us an opportunity to reflect on the lessons learnt from the programme, to celebrate its successes, and to plan for the future, where we will build on, and embed the programme into our mainstream activities.

1.2 A review of the current phase of the HNT Programme will be undertaken by the Steering Group in their final meeting in their current form during May 2019, and report back to EDC Board in June 2019.

1.3 The wide range of HNT community building activity over the past 8 months has been filmed to include interviews with local people, and will give us a detailed insight as to the activities and events which were most valued. This information together with the feedback from recent engagement activities and events will help inform our future place-making strategy and community building priorities. The completed film will be shared with EDC Board in their June 2019 meeting, whilst a first draft of the insight from our engagement activities will be shared with EDC Board in April.

2. Community building activities and events during March 2019

2.1 **‘The Gathering – create, grow, thrive’** took place on Saturday March 23 at Manor Community Primary School. Over 500 local people, artists and volunteers from a broad range of new and existing communities from across the Garden City and the wider Dartford and Gravesham area turned out to take part in our family festival. Visitors participated through creative activities which celebrated the success of the current phase of the Healthy New Town Programme. Free transport was provided to ensure that everyone that wanted to attend could.

2.2 The ‘Gathering’ event showcased 3 participatory arts projects which have taken place over the last 6 months, which engaged existing community groups and schools in discussions and activities related to local history, food production, eating, and craft making. Outputs included the production of ‘Tales and Tastings’, a book which has collated local stories and recipes – new and old, and which will be made available to all new and existing residents.

2.3 The free event gave other local fitness and creative groups an opportunity to showcase their activities, whilst entertainment and local food (including recipes from Tales and Tastings) were offered.

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2.4 Response to the event has been excellent, with positive social media coverage and dozens of positive comments and feedback left at the event. A few examples include:

- *What a perfect afternoon! I feel uplifted by the experience 😊*
- *Great local inclusion!*
- *Fantastic event bringing people and arts under same roof! I hope this is first of many similar events. Please make it an annual gathering!*
- *This is the best thing that's ever happened here!*
- *I felt nervous coming in but relaxed when leaving after an exciting afternoon of taking part in different activities (Tom aged 8)*

2.5 We believe 'The gathering' was a great example of how creativity, arts and culture and sports and physical activity can support community cohesion and bring joy to people's lives, whilst indirectly supporting healthier lifestyles. Music, and dancing, proved a positive way of promoting exercise. Our children's 'sculpture' competition proved to be a fun way to teach local kids about fresh fruit and vegetables. Feedback from the event is encouraging and is a very good sign for the future, in bringing together new and existing communities. We are looking at ways to continue engagement with groups, participants and artists, and to explore how we can deliver more events in the future.

3. Engagement and consultation activity

3.1 A £2.5M bid on behalf of local arts and community groups in the Dartford and Gravesham area has been submitted to Arts Council England's Creative People and Places (CPP) fund (c. 60% ACE 40% match). The bid (working title 'Connected') was developed through a series of workshops across Dartford and Gravesham and aims to increase the numbers of people choosing, creating and taking part in brilliant art experiences in the places where they live. If successful EDC will be the accountable body for the four year programme. Strategic partners will include; Dartford Orchard Theatre, Gravesham Arts Salon; NWK CVS; and Network Rail HS1. An interview stage is scheduled for July, with final decisions in August.

3.2 The agreed vision for the CPP bid is to deliver 'A vibrant and varied art and culture landscape that celebrates connectivity between the boroughs – represented by the river, the richness of its hidden histories and heritage, and the existence of diverse cultural traditions – offering a compelling and relatable range of audience and participatory experiences for all to take part'.

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4. Forward Look

4.1 The new Edible Ebbsfleet network community garden is now emerging at St Peter and St Pauls church centre in Swanscombe. We look forward to seeing this garden open to the public in June and thank the partner organisations, including Balfour Beatty, Jacksons Highways and Henley Camland, who are supporting the garden's delivery through donations of materials and labour.

4.2 The new garden is proving an excellent way of growing the 'edible Ebbsfleet' brand, whilst demonstrating the value that the Garden City can bring to existing communities through contributions from contractors.



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The 'Gathering' was funded by NHS England through our HNT Programme, highlighting the importance of vibrant communities to good health.



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Ebbsfleet 'Gathering' celebrated local music, dance, history and food.



Great feedback from local people to 'The Gathering'



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Ebbsfleet Garden City, 'The Gathering', March 2019.



Local people enjoying the Gathering

