

# Ebbsfleet Development Corporation

<b>Board Meeting Part</b>	<b>One</b>
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<b>Date of meeting:</b>	<b>15 July 2020</b>	<b>Paper Number:</b>	<b>EDC 020/066</b>
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<b>Title of paper</b>	<b>Ebbsfleet Living</b>
<b>Presented by</b>	<b>Kevin McGeough; Head of Strategy and Placemaking</b>
<b>Sub-committee</b>	<b>Not Applicable</b>

<b>Purpose of Paper and Executive Summary</b>	
To update EDC Board on progress and activities related to community building in Ebbsfleet Garden City during June / July 2020	
<b>EDC business plan and KPIs</b>	Matters covered will impact on some or all the priorities within the business plan and associated KPIs
<b>Recommendation</b>	<b>FOR INFORMATION</b>
<b>Annexes</b>	None
<b>Delegation</b>	Not Applicable
<b>Financial impact</b>	Activities funded by EDC are from within existing approved budgets
<b>Legal impact</b>	Not Applicable
<b>Stakeholder impact</b>	Paper records community activities and events across the Ebbsfleet Garden City, including those delivered directly or funded by EDC.
<b>Sponsor impact</b>	Supports EDC delivery of our Garden City objectives.

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## 1. Introduction

1.1. This paper sets out community building activity across the Ebbsfleet Garden City area over the June / July 2020 period.

1.2. This paper will distinguish as far as is possible activities and events which have been:

- Delivered by EDC directly
- Delivered by the community, or local stakeholders themselves with EDC Funding
- Delivered by the community or local stakeholders themselves without EDC intervention.
- Delivered by EDC partners or through a partnership with EDC for the benefit of local with EDC or third-party funding

## 2. Community building during the Coronavirus crisis

2.1 Community building activity during June and July has been severely restricted as EDC and the Ebbsfleet Garden City communities have been complying with directives and guidance from Government, MHCLG and Public Health England in response to the current Coronavirus pandemic.

2.2 EDC does however remain open for business, and we are endeavouring to support the spirit of the evolving Ebbsfleet Garden City as much as we can within the current context. Our Community Investment Fund and our Creative Ideas Fund are open to ideas for activity which may be delivered virtually during the current crisis, or to plan for activity beyond the current lock down and social distancing restrictions.

2.3 EDC are also interested in keeping an archive of what life is like in Ebbsfleet Garden City, including during the current crisis. A draft of our on-going film which records the growth of community life in the Garden City over the past year will be available later in the summer.

2.4 Following on from our report 'planning for recovery' to EDC Board in June 2020, which collated responses to our 'Learning from Lockdown' survey, the results have been shared on our website in a consumer-friendly format.

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EBBSFLEET GARDEN CITY

# Learning From Lockdown

HOW DID YOUR HOME AND NEIGHBOURHOOD PERFORM DURING LOCKDOWN?

## OUR HOMES



- 82% of people said that most or all of their needs were met in their homes during lockdown.
- People valued their private gardens and public open spaces most highly.
- 73% of residents said they have been able to comfortably work from home.
- 85% of respondents expect to, and would like to work from home more regularly in the future.
- Residents valued having space in their homes including home offices, and spare bedrooms to support working from home supported by a reliable/ high speed internet connection.

## OUR NEIGHBOURHOODS

- 57% of residents felt that all or most of their needs were met locally through existing neighbourhood facilities.
- 86% of residents have felt supported by neighbours during lockdown and greatly valued the apparent community spirit within neighbourhoods in the Garden City.
- 81% of residents have enjoyed being able to go for walks or cycling in their immediate local area, and greatly valued having open space nearby.
- 74% of residents felt that their home or neighbourhood supported their specific health needs and promoted a sense of wellbeing during lockdown.



## THE FUTURE GARDEN CITY



- 95% of residents feel that the way we live, work and travel will change in the future in response to the coronavirus pandemic.
- Residents want to be at the heart of planning for the future of the Garden City through community involvement.
- Residents want to see more open, green and blue spaces which are safe and easily accessible.
- 70% of residents felt they were now more conscious of the link between their health and wellbeing and where they live.

## WHAT COULD BE BETTER?

- Residents living in apartments, particularly those living in one-bedroom apartments with no access to private outdoor space did not feel well served and lacked work space.
- Residents want more sockets and better internet connections, improved sound insulation and better ventilation of homes.
- Residents want to see more, better and safer connections to parks and open spaces including areas of water.
- Residents want to see more shops and amenities and information on primary health provision.



## COMMUNICATE, EMPOWER AND INVOLVE



- To support their community spirit, residents wanted to have more things to do, including creative activities and opportunities for local events and street parties.
- Residents want better ways to communicate with each other and to help support local volunteering that isn't dependent on Facebook.
- Residents would like to have better communications with management companies, and to see a greater security presence in their neighbourhood.

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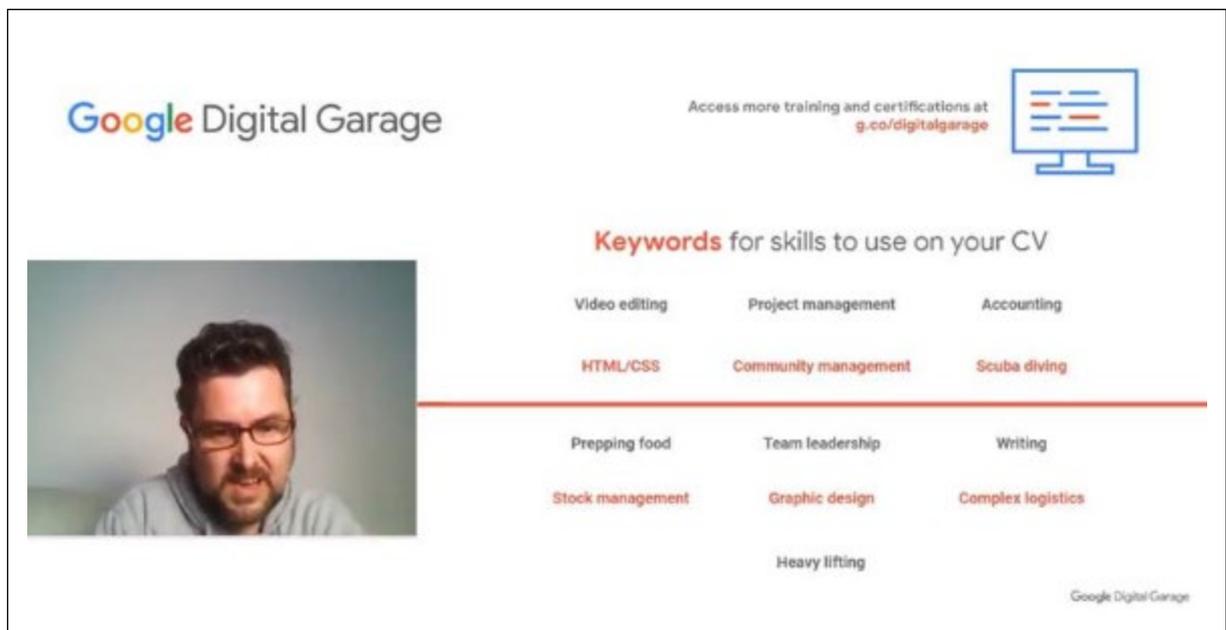
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### 3. Community Activity during June / July 2020

#### 3.1 Activity delivered directly by EDC

##### 3.1.1 Supporting skills and employment

EDC hosted Google's Digital Garage in the Garden City, to deliver an upskilling webinar which was promoted in the local area. 60 people logged on to learn about building a CV and writing a cover letter. As part of our post-COVID recovery plan, discussed with the Board in June, we will be looking to do more to drive forward the Inclusive Growth agenda in Ebbsfleet and webinars such as these can help to add value and understand what local people want to get involved in and where we can focus future resources.



##### 3.1.2 Edible Ebbsfleet

Supporting and evolving our Edible Ebbsfleet Network continues to be one of the best ways that EDC can support our local communities during lockdown.

EDC have distributed fruit and vegetable seeds to our Edible Ebbsfleet partners, including at Ebbsfleet Green. Planting is a good way for individuals to get involved in a collective effort whilst complying with social distancing requirements.

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## 3.2 Directly delivered community and stakeholder activity

3.2.1 Residents and local stakeholders in and around Ebbsfleet Garden City continue to show great resilience and community spirit in the face of the Coronavirus pandemic. Local businesses, community groups and individuals, have been developing ideas and innovations to try and maintain quality of life in the Garden City.

3.2.2 Ideas and inspiration have been coming from all age groups across the Garden City. Benji, who attends Cherry Orchard school, has been baking with his mum Shelley and sharing his newfound culinary skills with friends and neighbours.

3.2.3 Benji now has his own Instagram page with over 100 followers and has seen both his local classmates baking his recipes as well as people getting involved internationally. Shelley wants to grow her cakes and baking business and would love to find a local space to use to bake with others. Shelley is also keen to develop the online side of her business so again as part of our COVID-19 recovery plan and an action plan on the economy. EDC will be exploring ways to support local people through training opportunities and through the future provision of community space which could include 'test and training' kitchens.



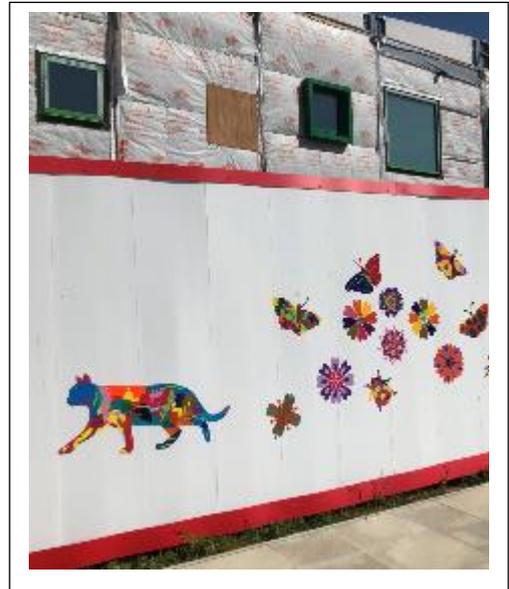
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3.2.4 Primary First Trust, operators of Springhead Primary School, ran an arts project recently working with their first intake of students to decorate the site hoarding outside the school development site, working with the artist Christina Lamb. Pupils worked with Christina to create the decorations for the hoarding which now are brightening up the construction site.

Pupils who will attend Springhead School in September have seen their art incorporated into the construction hoarding



Similarly, Maritime Academies Trust, who will operate Ebbsfleet Green Primary School, ran a 'silhouette' arts project in June to decorate the site hoarding around the new Primary School site at Ebbsfleet Green, working alongside a local creative organisation, LV21 and artist Wendy Daws.

**Silhouette Project  
for EGPS School Site**

Calling all parents and children who are due to start at Ebbsfleet Green Primary in September!

We need **YOU** to help us improve the look of the EGPS construction site.

We've teamed up with local artists to create a collaborative artwork piece that will include silhouettes of our new Ebbsfleet Green Primary parents and children and thus improve the scenery within the Ebbsfleet Green community whilst the school is built.

The deadline to enter your photograph is **Tuesday 30th June 2020!**

**KIER** **LV21** **Wendy Daws**

**Ebbsfleet Green Primary School**

The poster features a dark blue background with white silhouettes of a handstand, a dog, and a person walking. There are also white radiating lines above and below the silhouettes.

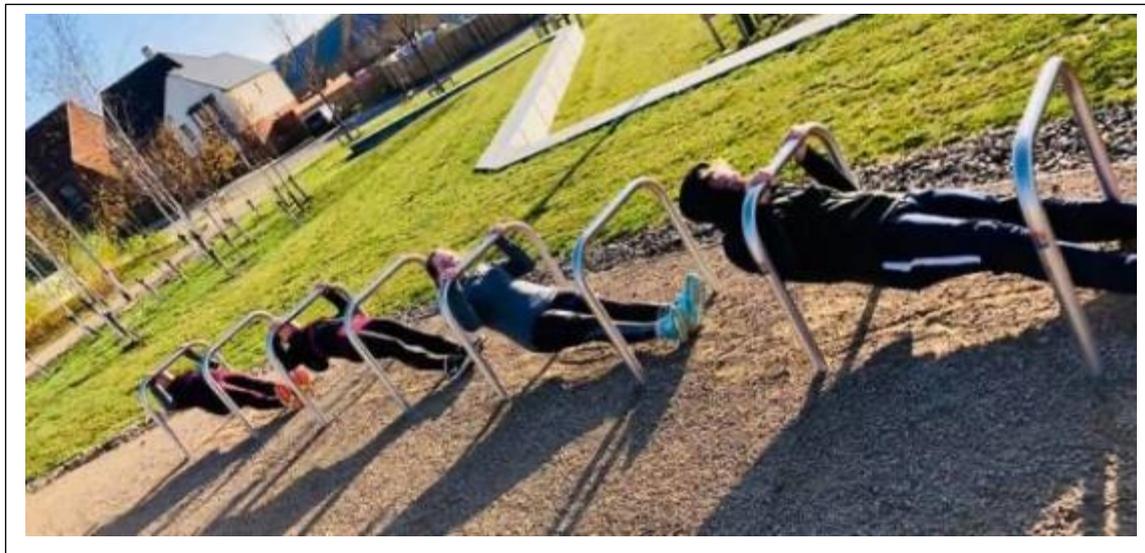
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3.2.5 Much of the on-going activity in the Garden City has gone virtual, such as Sunday Active and the Ebbsfleet Coffee Morning. Evidence suggests that many more residents are joining in through this format, with over 800 views of the recent Sunday morning HiiT sessions hosted by Rev Penny Marsh, with almost 400 people joining her on Facebook for the Sunday Active Talk.

3.2.6 Reports from community champions suggest that local residents are keen to start to meet again within the Government's social distancing guidelines with some smaller groups planning to meet over the summer in the parks, for walks, runs and picnics.



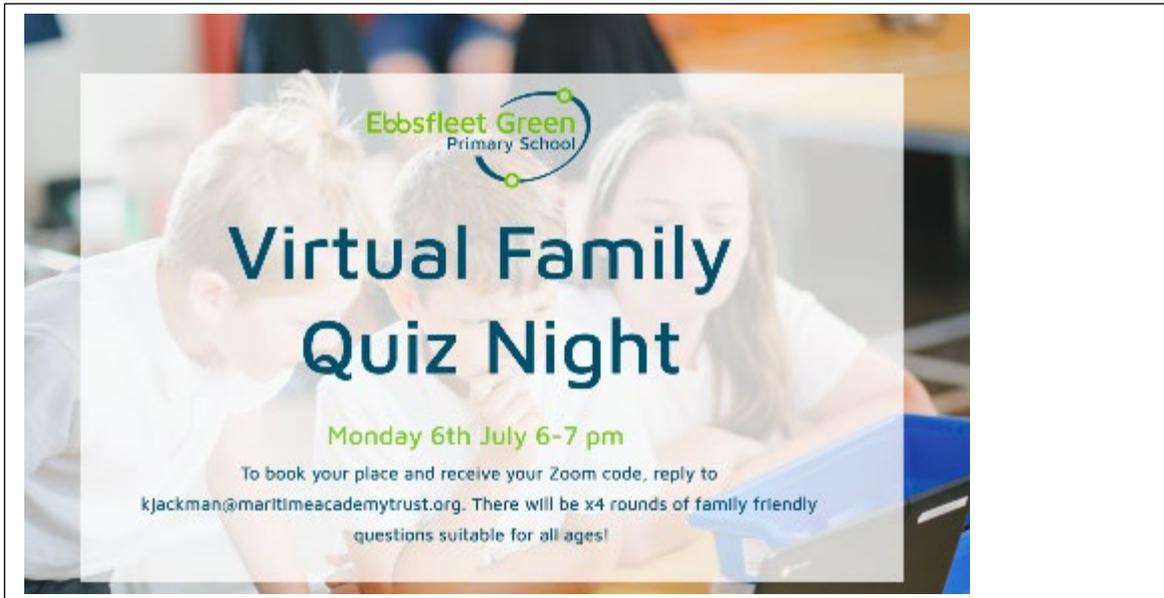
The Sunday Active group, including the HiiT exercise group have gone virtual for the time being, however, are attracting an even larger audience than ever.

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3.2.7 Virtual Quiz evenings between local residents have been particularly popular including that hosted by the Maritime Academy Trust.



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3.2.8 Grace Church Ebbsfleet, a community Church based in Castle Hill, led a community clean up event on a Public footpath located between Ebbsfleet Green and Castle Hill in early June with local residents helping out and getting involved.

3.2.9 Similarly, residents in Northfleet have been organising localised litter picks during lockdown with Northfleet Big Local supporting and St Botolph's Church, Northfleet held a clean-up of their church yard on Friday 3rd July supported by local residents and businesses

3.2.10 The Guru Nanak Darbar Gurdwara Centre in Gravesend have been working with staff at Darent Valley Hospital during the COVID-19 crisis by providing regular hot meals. Their dedication and support attracted national media attention and was captured on Sunday Morning Live on BBC1 on 28<sup>th</sup> June.

3.2.11 Other local groups attracting national media attention during the Covid 19 crisis have included Facebook group 'Bored Toddler and Children's activities' which was featured on BBC Radio Kent's 'Make a Difference' campaign. It is a free group which offers activities ideas, home learning support and online events.

3.2.12 Darent Valley Hospital held their first Pride walk around the Hospital on 26<sup>th</sup> June.

3.2.13 Explore Kent have published useful maps showing local cycle routes for Dartford: <https://explorekent.org/activities/explore-dartford/?fbclid=IwAR1tYfmaXwQ4I3qDuKWuxpDPhW0jXdcp2xZG1g5ArV2FPdQuh6iyantJL6o>

3.2.14 The Grand, Gravesend have delivered weekly dance tutorial, meditation, an LGB+ support group and English (as a foreign language) lessons via their Facebook page during the current period, attracting significant interest.

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## 3.3 Partnership activity (with funding from EDC)

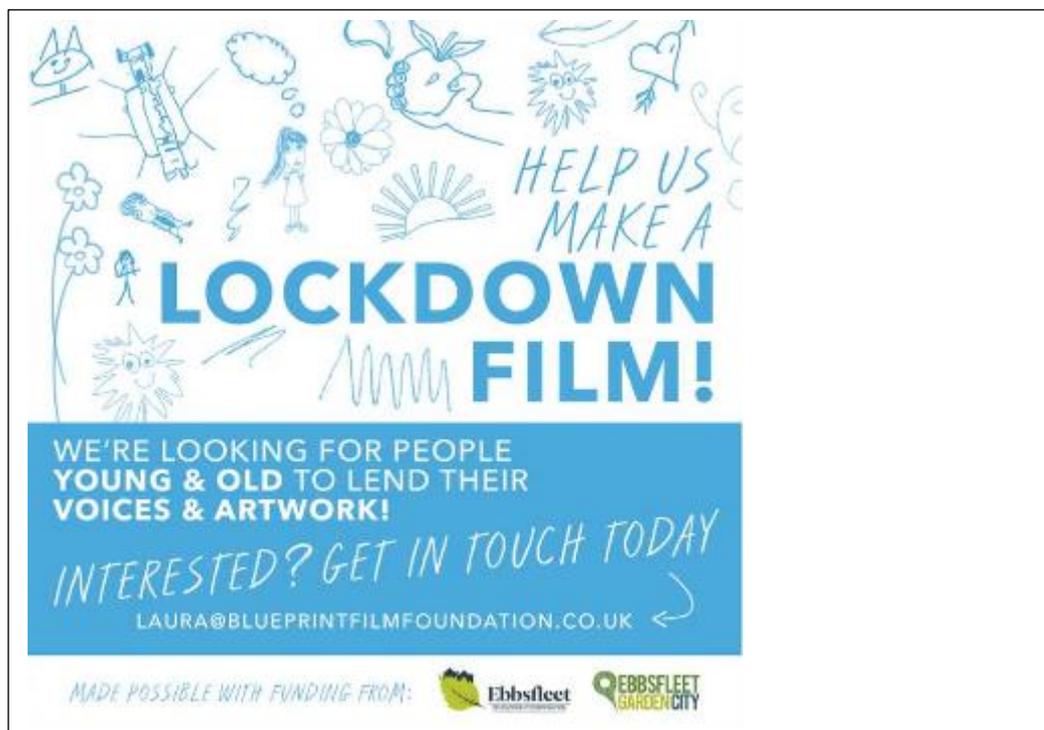
### 3.3.1 Community Investment Fund

EDC continue to support ideas and initiatives in the Garden City through our Community Investment Fund and Creative Ideas Funds. We have made a fresh call for ideas via our website and have highlighted how the funds can help to support online community activities during the lockdown period, and also to welcome individuals and community groups who want to plan for activities or events in the year ahead.

<https://ebbsfleetdc.org.uk/14796-2/>

### 3.3.2 Creative Ideas Fund

One Springhead resident, Laura Kavanagh has used seed funding through the Creative Ideas Fund combined with her expertise from her local company Blueprint Film Foundation to make an online story with animations with local families during the lockdown period. 22 families have signed up to get involved to produce a collaborative animated story, with further opportunities currently being marketed for other families to get involved.



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## 4. Looking to the Future

### 4.1 Health

In response to recent queries through public questions regarding health provision in the Ebbsfleet Garden City area, EDC will launch a new 'Health and wellbeing' section to our website in July. The new pages shall include:

- The story so far of our Healthy New Town
- What health provision is planned for the future?
- The proposed Health and wellbeing hub for the Garden city

Information will include a range of interactive maps to help new and existing residents gain access to information they may require on access to services.

### 4.2 Other Issues - Safety

Henley Camland have raised concerns that people have been seen sunbathing in the restricted areas of the Whitecliffe site and are swimming in the lake.

*'Obviously, as well trespassing on private property, this is hugely dangerous. We all know that young people from our area have been swimming in the lakes for generations but that in no way lessons how devastating a drowning incident especially within very cold and deep quarry lakes, where there is no lifesaving equipment, can be. Many of these incidents are happening outside normal working hours when the site is less active. Henley Camland has posted warning signs around the perimeter and have regular security patrols checking fences for damage where trespassers may gain access, but really want to emphasise the dangers of trespassing on the former quarry site, and the risks of swimming in open water.'*