

Ebbsfleet Development Corporation

Board Meeting Part	One
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Date of meeting:	16 September 2020	Paper Number:	EDC 020/087
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Title of paper	Ebbsfleet Living
Presented by	Kevin McGeough; Head of Strategy and Placemaking
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 August / September 2020	
EDC business plan and KPIs	Matters covered will impact on some or all the priorities within the business plan and associated KPIs
Recommendation	FOR INFORMATION
Annexes	None
Delegation	Not Applicable
Financial impact	Activities funded by EDC are from within existing approved budgets
Legal impact	Not Applicable
Stakeholder impact	Paper records community activities and events across the Ebbsfleet Garden City, including those delivered directly or funded by EDC.
Sponsor impact	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 August / September 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 or without EDC Funding
- 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 August / September remains 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 However, signs that the garden city is coming back to life is apparent as children returned to school and the community centre at Castle Hill has started to reopen. EDC are contacting groups that operate out of both Castle Hill Community Centre and the Eastgate Centre to ensure that they have what they need to be able to deliver their classes, projects and other initiatives safely.

2.3 EDC hosted a virtual meeting of the Ebbsfleet Garden City Community Board on 1st September 2020 where resident members reinforced the desire to restart community activities where social distancing can be adhered to and safety procedures clearly communicated. Members encouraged EDC to re-mobilise our plans for a 'bridging communities' celebration which had been planned to celebrate the opening of Springhead Bridge. The event will be held when it is appropriate to do so in line with government guidance.

2.4 EDC are currently working with local groups and individuals to encourage bids to our Community Investment Fund and our Creative Ideas Fund to help residents to stimulate activity in the Garden City in line with government guidance in terms of size of social gatherings and social distancing restrictions.

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3. Community Activity during August / September 2020

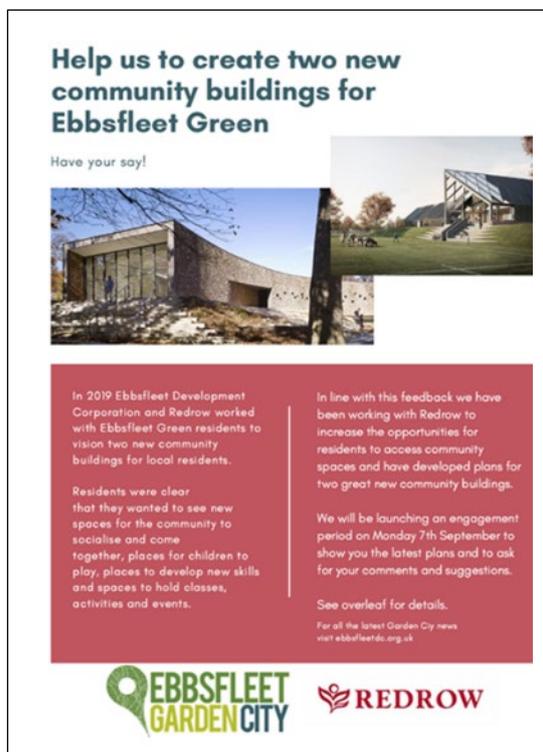
3.1 Activity delivered directly by EDC

3.1.1 Consultations on proposed community buildings

During September, EDC commenced a period of community collaboration asking local people for their ideas and suggestions on plans for three new community buildings across both Castle Hill and Ebbsfleet Green. Responding to the needs and ambitions of local residents which they conveyed to us through a series of community engagement events last year, and through the recent 'Learning from Lockdown' survey.

The proposals include a range of buildings of varying scales, including a 'Neighbourhood House' and 'Community Hub' incorporating external all-weather community sports pitch and tennis courts at Ebbsfleet Green. At Castle Hill, the proposal is for a Community building with a cultural focus incorporating a range of spaces for community meetings, a café space, touch-down workspaces, start-up employment spaces for creative industries and a performance space.

Residents having been giving their views via an [online survey](#) and a series of webinars have been held to allow local people to ask questions of the project team in a live, online setting. Dedicated pages have been set up on the main EDC website to allow residents to view the plans.



Help us to create two new community buildings for Ebbsfleet Green

Have your say!

In 2019 Ebbsfleet Development Corporation and Redrow worked with Ebbsfleet Green residents to vision two new community buildings for local residents.

Residents were clear that they wanted to see new spaces for the community to socialise and come together, places for children to play, places to develop new skills and spaces to hold classes, activities and events.

In line with this feedback we have been working with Redrow to increase the opportunities for residents to access community spaces and have developed plans for two great new community buildings.

We will be launching an engagement period on Monday 7th September to show you the latest plans and to ask for your comments and suggestions.

See overleaf for details.

For all the latest Garden City news visit ebbsfleetdc.org.uk

EBBSFLEET GARDEN CITY **REDROW**



EBBSFLEET GARDEN CITY

A NEW COMMUNITY BUILDING FOR CASTLE HILL

Ebbsfleet Development Corporation is developing plans for an additional community building to offer opportunities for local residents to develop a greater range of community and cultural activities in Castle Hill.

We will be running a virtual engagement period from 7th - 18th September via our website so please join us and have your say!

Artists impression of proposed community building

For all the latest Garden City news visit ebbsfleetdc.org.uk

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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 – responding to the changing government restrictions of gathering and social distancing as appropriate.



AUGUST IN
EBBSFLEET GARDEN CITY

For the latest information on the Garden City visit: ebbsfleetdc.org.uk



HELLO August

Castle Hill Community Centre is gradually reopening! Visit Castlehillcommunitycentre.com

Showcase Cinema at Bluewater is now open!

Pay a visit to our local Garden Centres at Springhead Nursery and Millbrook Garden Centre

Head down to Gravesend Thames Riverside on 14 August to see the Thames Barge match, 8am – 5pm

Visit Sue Davies Flowers' Pop up flower shop in Valence, Maidstone! Suedaviesflowers.com

Head out for a ride at Cyclopark in Gravesend cyclopark.com

The Eastgate Centre at Springhead Park is open again for bookings to use their space. The Eastgate coffee shop is also open from 10am – 4pm and is taking part in the 'Eat Out to Help Out' scheme

Take in some natural space at Bore Place at Edenbridge, Kent boreplace.org

Take in the 2020 Bitesize Hever Festival at Hever Castle heverfestival.co.uk

Become a wildlife explorer for the day! Head down to Gravesend Riverside Area, Commercial Place, between 11-3pm on 21 August!

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3.2.2 Residents at Ebbsfleet Green are continuing to keep the Edible Ebbsfleet momentum growing, both by keeping exiting planter growing and adding new fruit trees.



3.2.3 The second primary school in Ebbsfleet Garden City had its official opening on 7th September 2020. [The Springhead Park Primary School](#) is the latest addition to The Primary First Trust portfolio and is currently open for admissions for pupils from nursery to year 4. Under the direction of headteacher Wayne Clayton the school promises to be an exciting new community asset for the Garden City



Adrian Moorhouse, CEO of Primary First Trust, cuts the ribbon at the opening of the school.

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3.2.5 Much of the on-going activity in the Garden City continues to be virtual however a number of groups have started to deliver physical activities within their local communities in line with Governments guidelines for gatherings and social distancing.

3.2.6 The HiiT group, building on its incredible on-line success during lockdown, is now moving toward Friday night workouts in park at Castle Hill.

3.2.7 The Garden City Running Group has also restarted the midweek, albeit with limited numbers permitted and pre-booking being essential.

3.2.8 The Castle Hill coffee morning meet up has also restarted with 'song time in the park', using rugs set out 2m apart to create 'islands' for families sit on.

3.2.9 Sunday Morning Active remains live on Facebook, as it is not yet possible for them to meet within the Castle hill Community Centre, and the midweek quiz on zoom also remains very popular.



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3.3 Community and partnership activity with part funding from EDC

3.3.1 New ideas are starting to be submitted by local residents and stakeholders to the Community Investment Fund, as communities and public buildings are starting to re-open and re-engage. EDC has contacted local schools to offer support to ensure they can function effectively and efficiently, including through creating additional outdoor learning and teaching spaces to help dealing with covid-19 restrictions.

3.3.2 Through the Community Investment Fund, EDC has granted funding the Ebbsfleet Green Primary School so that they can provide outdoor planting equipment at their temporary school location when the new term commences. This equipment will promote the ethos behind Edible Ebbsfleet and will continue to raise awareness amongst young Garden City residents of the links between growing, preparing and eating healthy foods

The planting and equipment from the temporary site will be transferrable to the new school when it is complete next year.

3.3.3 The Community Investment Fund has also offered funding to Ebbsfleet Academy Secondary School to allow for temporary fencing to be installed in the school playground. This in turn will allow bubbles of students to use the playground safely.

3.3.4 EDC is engaging with the Academy and other local schools to see whether there are any other interventions that are required to their schools to allow for safe reopening in the new school term and we will offer support wherever possible.

3.3.4 Through the Creative Ideas Fund, EDC are working with residents and local groups to mobilise activities which were agreed before lockdown. Activities are now being re-modelled to follow social distancing guidance and restrictions on sizes of social gatherings. The first new idea agreed is a new weekly street and contemporary dance class for 9-18-year olds starting in September at Eastgate Community Centre. The class will be available to a maximum of 15 people to begin with and is aimed to encourage young boys and girls to keep active through dance.

As with all activities funded, this will be subject to changing government guideline including those imposed on 9th September limiting the size of social gatherings.

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3.3.2 Boogie and Baby Bops

Thanks to funding from EDC's Creative Ideas Fund, a local resident has been enabled to start a new initiative for parents of children aged 0 – 4 years. The project invites local residents to join together in music and dancing with their children, having fun and getting fit at the same time. The programme will start from 23rd September 2020 in the Castle Hill Community Centre is already fully booked by local families. Plans for a second class for each age group is planned for next term.



Join in with sensory play, songs, music and dancing. Come along to boogie and bop with your little tots!

SESSIONS EVERY WEDNESDAY
10AM - Boogie Bops for Little Tots
(suitable for 18 months - 4 years)
11AM - Baby Bops for Tiny Tots
(suitable for 0-18 months)
£5 per session, must be booked in advance in half termly blocks

A sensory bag will need to be purchased for £5 with all your own sensory equipment you shall need for the session. For you to take home, bring along each week and keep

Contact Kelly 07767210198 for more information and booking or email BoogieBopsEbbsfleet@gmail.com
Facebook & Instagram @BoogieBops



made possible with funding from



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4. Looking to the Future

4.1 Health Update

4.1.1 The Ebbsfleet Garden City [health and wellbeing pages](#) are now live on the EDC website. The pages include sections on what is planned, interactive maps for local health provision and resources to promote healthy lifestyles in Ebbsfleet

4.1.2 Darent Valley Health Trust have announced that Moorfields Eye Hospital have made the hard decision to stop providing services at Darent Valley Hospital from the end of September 2020. Moorfields will be contacting all patients to offer them the option of continuing their care at one of their other locations, including London. For people who do not want to travel to London to continue their care with Moorfields, options are being developed for how this service can be delivered in the community, closer to people's homes.

4.1.3 NHS England have launched: www.yourcovidrecovery.nhs.uk and <https://www.nhs.uk/better-health/> websites. Both being promoted locally via Kent and Medway CCG to help respond positively to Covid 19.

4.2 Future Ebbsfleet

During September, Cement Fields, in partnership with EDC will launch their Future Ebbsfleet Programme. The Programme has been awarded public funding by the National Lottery through Arts Council England toward a three-year programme of research, artists' residencies and co-commissions, created collaboratively with young people from Ebbsfleet Garden City and surrounding neighbourhoods.

Working in collaboration with artists and a wide range of partners, young people aged 16-25 will co-lead the programme, exploring and shaping Ebbsfleet Garden City as it is built. Together they will research what has worked locally, nationally and internationally, and will consider innovative and creative placemaking ideas with partners including architects, designers, philosophers and policy makers, leading to a framework for a new model of youth and art led placemaking.

The Ebbsfleet Garden City Community Board will meet virtually on the 1st September 2020. The Board met for the first time in February 2020 and has been unable to meet thus far during the Covid-19 crisis. Chairman Jeremy Kite has reconvened the group to ensure they are able to help EDC and the community to recover after the current crisis.

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4.3 Creative Estuary - collaborating with our communities

A multidisciplinary consortium led by Architects RCKa and AOC have been appointed to develop a best practice approach to the co-design and co-location of cultural and community infrastructure for Ebbsfleet Garden City. The work is part of, and funded by Creative Estuary, an ambitious programme to transform 60 miles of the Thames Estuary across Essex and Kent into one of the most exciting cultural hubs in the world, putting culture at the heart of placemaking.

Over the next 12 months, focusing on Whitecliffe and Northfleet Riverside, the consortia will work with local residents, key stakeholders, and creative professionals to develop proposals for a range of high-quality community buildings. The aim is to co-locate a range of creative and cultural facilities which enable local people and creative businesses to flourish alongside civic uses, in order to maximise usage, viability and sustainability. The consortia will be using a range of methods to encourage local people to share their ideas for community and creative facilities.

The results of the cultural co-location project will be used to develop a Cultural Infrastructure Prospectus for Ebbsfleet to attract creative businesses and facilities to the area, maximising on its strategic location and supporting the ambitions of Creative Estuary. The consortia will also share lessons learnt during the project through a best practice guide for national and international cultural developments in the future.

4.4 Ebbsfleet Central

Consultants led by Weston Williamson have been appointed to masterplan Ebbsfleet Central which is now under the ownership of EDC. The consortia will be working with local residents and key stakeholders to ensure that proposals for the new city centre reflect local ambitions.

The consultants are planning virtual collaborations in the first instance with Ebbsfleet Garden City Community Board and Ebbsfleet Garden City Community Partners Group. This marks the start of an ongoing dialogue with local residents and stakeholders to deliver the heart of Ebbsfleet Garden City.