

Sustainable Development Select Committee			
Title	Heritage in Deptford: Sayes Court Garden	Item	7
Contributor	Scrutiny Manager		
Class	Part 1 (Open)	Date	10 December 2013

1. At its July and October meetings the Committee considered items about retaining and enhancing heritage in Deptford. In July, Members heard from the 'Build the Lenox' project about their plans to build a replica 17th century ship (the Lenox) on Convoys Wharf, in celebration of the area's maritime history.
2. In October the Committee heard from Hutchison Whampoa, the current owners of Convoys Wharf, who have put forward plans for the complete redevelopment of the site. They are proposing to build several thousand new homes, incorporating three tall towers of more than 30 stories on the currently unused site, as well as new public spaces and infrastructure.
3. The Committee has also resolved to hear from members of the Sayes Court Garden project about their plans for the revival of the historic Sayes Court garden in Deptford, which was first founded by John Evelyn in the 17th century.
4. A brief overview of the project is attached in appendix A. Members of the project will be at the meeting on 10 December to present their vision for the future of Sayes Court and answer questions from the Committee.

If you require further information regarding this report please contact Timothy Andrew (Scrutiny Manager) on 02083147916

Appendix A:

Extract from the Sayes Court Garden website
(<http://www.sayescourtgarden.org.uk/about.html>)

John Evelyn established his garden at Sayes Court in 1653. Over the next 30 years he laid out his innovative designs, bringing ideas from the Continent and plants from around the world, using the garden as a setting for his experiments and research. The garden was famous in his own day, and the texts which he wrote from his research remained influential long after his death. Many of his concerns remain relevant today, such as adapting for climate change, or growing trees to purify the London air.

200 years later, when John Evelyn's garden had long since faded away, his descendant was concerned by the appalling living conditions in Industrial London. W J Evelyn decided to create a public park on the site of Sayes Court, to provide a place of beauty and fresh air for the people of Deptford in perpetuity. Through his discussions with Octavia Hill, this project at Sayes Court led to the formation of the National Trust.

Only a portion of Sayes Court Park still exists: the remains of the manor house, the site of John Evelyn's garden and the rest of the former Park now lie within the boundary of Convoys Wharf. The approaching development plans bring the opportunity to reclaim this land for the public, to create an experimental 21st Century garden and building to act as a centre of research, education and enterprise.

This project has the power to help integrate the proposed new development into the local community as a place for everyone - bringing education, jobs and training as well as a place of beauty and fresh air once more.