

Sustainable Development Select Committee			
Title	Build the Lenox	Item	7
Contributor	Scrutiny Manager		
Class	Part 1 (Open)	Date	11 July 2013

1. Purpose

At its meeting in May, the Committee agreed to consider an item at its meeting on 11 July about the 'Build the Lenox' project. A Deptford community group is proposing to build a replica 17th century ship (the Lenox) on Convoys Wharf, in celebration of the area's maritime history. Information about the proposals is included in the appendices of this report.

2. Recommendation

The Committee is recommended to note the information provided in the appendices of this report and direct questions to representatives of the Build the Lenox project group at the meeting on 11 July.

3. Further implications

At this time there are no specific additional financial, legal, equalities, crime and disorder implications or environmental implications arising from the implementation of the recommendation in this report.

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

Appendix A:

<http://www.buildthelenox.org/index.html>

The Lenox Vision

Our proposal is to build a replica 17th century warship, over a 7-10 year period, on the very site the original ship was constructed, as part of the Convoys Wharf redevelopment in Deptford, Lewisham.

Once the Lenox is launched and completed, we propose to moor her in the restored Great Basin in front of the Olympia Building which will become her home port.

We propose to support the creation of an interpretation centre at the site, the Deptford Dockyard Museum, which will focus on the history of the King's Yard as well as the wider history of Deptford.

We propose to work in partnership with educational and government agencies to create a skills and training programme as part of the Lenox construction scheme.

We propose to support the establishment of a marine enterprise zone in line with the requirement to create a viable use for the protected wharf.

We intend:

- to build a 17th century replica ship using a combination of traditional and modern methods and to launch it
- to use the ship and its construction as the central focus of a heritage tourist attraction at the site. Along with Sayes Court Gardens, this opportunity signifies perhaps the last chance for Lewisham, as a riparian borough, to make the most of its riverfront
- to establish a future role for the ship both at the site and in an ambassadorial capacity, attracting visitors to the area and representing Deptford and the UK on overseas voyages
- to provide a platform for cultural, historical and educational exploration through collaboration with academic, heritage and scientific groups
- to provide training in manufacturing and maritime skills through apprenticeship programmes

To do this, we need:

- an agreement with the developer to use part of the site to build the ship, ideally the Double Dry Dock.
- space for an interpretation centre and visitor facilities
- subsequent use of a suitable mooring for the ship at the restored Great Basin. Mooring her at this location will put the Olympia Shed in context and connect it to the river
- a commitment from the developer and Lewisham Council to provide safe, suitable access to the site for visitors during the construction phase

- a commitment from Lewisham Council to establish and develop a proper tourism strategy for the area, which will support and enhance the community-led projects such as the Lenox and Sayes Court Gardens, as well as the redevelopment of the site and the wider Deptford area
- to gain an understanding of the developer's planned phasing so that we can collaborate on our proposed timescales and construction programme to suit the site and afford the project the strongest chance of success

Some specific benefits (more details in the Lenox Vision)

Tourism

Building the Lenox at Convoys Wharf would create a tangible and undeniable link to the site's history that would have an immediate and lasting impression on visitors. With a ship in construction in the Double Dry Dock, or moored in the Great Basin, and the recreation of John Evelyn's Sayes Court Gardens nearby, the place-making aspirations of the redevelopment could be realised in a single stroke.

The projects will present an opportunity for Lewisham to create a new, cohesive tourism strategy, which focuses on the north of the borough. This will put Lewisham on the London tourist trail for the first time, a position strengthened by its proximity to the World Heritage site and the Cutty Sark at Greenwich.

There is a strong case for the history of the dockyard to be emphasised in the creation of an interpretation centre. This could be an annexe to the National Maritime Museum in Greenwich and the Museum of London Docklands. As well as those artefacts held by the Lewisham Local History Archive, there are a great many held in storage by the National Maritime Museum relating specifically to Deptford, which could bring the history of the site alive for local residents and visitors alike.

Regeneration

The project will have wider benefits of regeneration and rejuvenation, not just in the local area but also beyond. As well as contributing to the existing maritime cluster along this part of the Thames, the Lenox will become established as a viable and sustainable local business entity, contributing to the local economy and promoting volunteer and community inclusion. During construction, the use of sustainable materials will drive reforestation and responsible woodland management, and being a ship-building project will support the reinvigoration of UK maritime links and businesses.

Employment and training

Central to the Lenox Project is the opportunity to provide meaningful training and employment opportunities to local people, in collaboration with partner organisations in the area such as Lesoco, Greenwich Community College, Greenwich University and the Ahoy Centre. The chance to work on a live ship-building project which is also a visitor attraction represents a unique opportunity with exciting possibilities for learning and development.

Appendix B:

LONDON BOROUGH OF LEWISHAM

COUNCIL MEETING

26 JUNE 2013

**Question by Councillor Curran
of the Deputy Mayor**

Question

What progress has the Council made in supporting the proposals of Build the Lenox campaign?

Reply

Build the Lenox is a project to build a 17th century warship on the site of King Henry VIII's Royal Dockyard at Convoys Wharf Deptford.

Council officers have been in regular contact with the Build the Lenox group over the past two years and have met them to discuss their proposals. Officers have also sought to facilitate a dialogue between the group and the owners of the Convoys Wharf site, Hutchison Whampoa, about the potential to deliver the project and have discussed the project with the developer to try to identify an area of the site that could be used. Very early discussions have also taken place with the GLA regarding the potential for the project on the site.

Most recently officers met with the group in May 2013 following the receipt of their vision for the proposal to examine the document and provided comments at that meeting to ensure that proposals are suitably robust and look at all of the available options on the site.

Officers have expressed their general support for the project and opportunities it could bring to the area. There are outstanding issues to be resolved about the location within the site which might be used and the full costs and implications of all the options have yet to be fully appraised.