



Trust Talk

May 2009

Multi-Millions Set to Turn Dreams into Reality

It's been a fantastic couple of months at the Trust because, with the support of our partners, we have succeeded in brokering millions of pounds of funding into Thamesmead and we now know that our long-held dreams of creating first class leisure and sporting facilities in Thamesmead are to become reality.

Sporting Club Thamesmead

The start of construction work on Sporting Club Thamesmead was marked earlier this month by a ground-breaking ceremony on the site at Thamesmead Town Football Club (TTFC). Guest of honour at the event was Lord Pendry, President of the Football Foundation, who handed over a £1 million cheque towards the development saying that "Everybody connected with this exciting project should be congratulated."



Back Row: (left to right) Vic Grimes, Chair, Trust Thamesmead; Keith McMahon, Manager, TTFC; Mick Hayes, Chief Executive, Trust Thamesmead; Lord Pendry, President, Football Foundation; Jason Smith, MD, Haymills; John Austin MP; Cllr Teresa O'Neill, Leader, Bexley Council. Front Row: Tommy the Toad and young players.

The go-ahead for this exciting project came when the Football Foundation, the UK's largest sports charity, pledged £1.075 million with another £525,000 coming from the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA), the national housing and regeneration agency for England.

Then the final piece of the jigsaw fell into place with the Trust's Board unanimous agreement to push the green button by agreeing to release sufficient capital from our reserves to match the grant funding that we have won for the scheme.

Vic Grimes, Trust Thamesmead's Chair, commented: "I'm very pleased that we now have all the funding in place and work is to start on a project which will provide a step change in sports provision in Thamesmead. None of this would've been possible without the solid support we have received from Bexley Council's Members and Officers during the past four years.

"This coupled with the fantastic response from the Football Foundation, the HCA and our other funders means that Thamesmead will at last have the quality facility it has been sorely lacking for so long."

The new facility will provide an iconic community sports pavilion with changing facilities, indoor activity rooms and social facilities available to all residents of Thamesmead. Outside there will be a new full size floodlit synthetic turf pitch for year round community football and other sports, a full sized senior grass football pitch and ancillary grass pitches in the adjacent Crossways Park, and a floodlit Multi Use Games Area available for a wide range of sports and activities. The scheme also features enhanced parking and access to the site, as well as improved spectator facilities for supporters and members of the football club.



Things are moving fast down at Bayliss Avenue with construction company Haymills already on site. Although there's not much to see yet we thought that this photo says all there needs to be said about the dreams and aspirations of the young people of Thamesmead.

Members of TTFC's Under-10s team excitedly study images of their new home.

It's in the Bank!

Meanwhile the postman popped a significant package through the Trust's letterbox a few weeks ago – a cheque for £5 million pounds!

As we reported in the last issue of Trust Talk this funding, from the government's myplace programme, is to be used to transform the Southern Arches under Harrow Manor Way as a Youth Leisure Zone, giving young people in Thamesmead somewhere to go, something to do and someone to talk to.



To celebrate this fantastic news the Trust held an Open Day at the football club where two young people from Thamesmead Youth Voice gave confident speeches about the Youth Leisure Zone and accepted the £5million myplace cheque on behalf of the Trust.

Thamesmead Youth Voice members Cicely Blain and Jerusha Frimpong with Trust Chief Executive Mick Hayes

The event also gave the Trust the opportunity to officially launch the book 'Thamesmead – A Social History'.

Author Valerie Wigfall was joined by the first vicar in Thamesmead Patrick Forbes who recounted his memories of early Thamesmead, saying it was a bit like landing on the moon without breathing apparatus while community activist Debbie Frimpong spoke movingly about her experience of life in Thamesmead today.



Valerie, Patrick and Debbie

Copies of 'Thamesmead – a Social History' are available priced £15.00 (£10.00 for Thamesmead residents with proof of postcode) from the Trust's office in the town centre at 19a Joyce Dawson Way or by contacting the Trust's Head of Marketing & Communications Elaine Johnson on 020 8320 4477 or ejohnson@trust-thamesmead.co.uk

Inspiring Communities

Building on our agenda of providing Thamesmead's young people with the very best opportunities, we are now leading a local partnership (including Woolwich Polytechnic and Hawksmoor Youth Club) in the submission of an important bid to the Government's new 'Inspiring Communities fund'.

The bid, which could provide an additional £450,000 into Thamesmead over the next two years, seeks to engage the talents of the wider community to help raise young people's aspirations and educational attainment.

Neil Kirby, who is assisting the partnership to put together a strong bid, said "Through the transformational building projects at the Youth Leisure Zone and Football Club, Thamesmead is finally getting some of the high quality community facilities that it's always needed. Our proposal is to build on this new impetus by developing a community led campaign focused around innovative activities and aspirational experience for young people and their families. Developing leadership skills and exciting volunteering opportunities are important themes in our bid".

"We will seek to join up other strategic priorities and local initiatives, strengthen our partnership and other social networks, open up opportunities to access other funding streams and seek to pool budgets and negotiate with the government around increased freedom and flexibilities to give greater power and influence to local people"

The bid has to be submitted by 3 June and the government have announced that there will be 15 successful neighbourhoods across the country.

Parkview Community Hub

In 2007-08 plans were put forward for the redevelopment of a series of disused workshops in Kale Road but a lack of funding meant that the proposed scheme could not go ahead.

This year the Trust's Community Development team will be bringing together local residents, various agencies and partner organisations to look at the availability and quality of community infrastructure in the Parkview area and to look at how we can potentially develop a community 'hub' in an area of Thamesmead that is poorly served with community facilities.

The Trust owns the Limestone Community Hall, Dashwood Club, Kale Road workshops, some adjacent garages and the former hairdressers. The latter is being considered as the location for a Safer Neighbourhood Police team serving Thamesmead East and Lesnes wards.

Together and in association with the local schools, churches and the Business Academy Bexley, these properties could provide the foundations for a greatly enhanced community resource.

David Stone, the Trust's Head of Community Development will lead this project and the next stage is a major consultation exercise. If you want to know more or would like to become involved contact David directly on 020 8320 4492 or email dstone@trust-thamesmead.co.uk

T'riffic Thamesmead

T'riffic Thamesmead, the joint initiative between the Trust and local schools, aims to help pupils see the positives of living in Thamesmead and to give them a greater sense of civic pride and sense of place and belonging, has entered its second year.

In the past 12 months around 700 children from Thamesmead's primary schools have been involved in the project and it is hoped that a similar number will benefit in the coming year too.

At a recent T'riffic Thamesmead meeting teachers were able to reflect on the project's successes last year and to concentrate on the wants and needs for this year. The Trust was also able to talk about plans to take T'riffic into the wider community with a range of events being planned for Local and Community History month.

Also in the pipeline is a T'riffic Thamesmead badge which will be awarded to all pupils who take part. The design for this badge will come from a schools' design-a-badge competition during the summer term.

Some wonderful work has been produced by the children too and some of this will be uploaded onto the Trust's website very soon.

As we've told you before the work produced includes fantastic poems, a Thamesmead Monopoly board and a mural on the front of Herongate primary school for everyone to see.



The mural, which was inspired by images in the T'riffic Thamesmead resource pack, and part-funded by the Trust through our Schools Plus initiative.

Thanks to Herongate Deputy Head Zoe Salmon for taking these photos.



And the Winners Are...

Thirty five acts auditioned for the fourth Trust Thamesmead annual talent contest which was held at Woolwich Polytechnic in April.

The T Factor is a great community event which gives Thamesmead residents the chance to get on stage and show what they are capable of. Every year we are overwhelmed by the talent we unearth in Thamesmead and we weren't disappointed this year.

Hosted by Andrew Sayers and judged by Joanne Marchant, Head Teacher of Windrush Primary School, Anne Bassi, teacher of English and Work Related Learning Coordinator at Woolwich Polytechnic, Peter Warner from Abbey Music Studios and Trust Community Development Officer Romel Holmes-Lewis, the day proved a huge success.

The 150-strong crowd was even treated to an impromptu version of the first ever T Factor winner's Bryon aka GMA (God's Most Anointed) debut single *Candy Shop* which is being released this summer.

Romel told Trust Talk: "This year's acts were of a high calibre and it was hard deciding just six winners out of the 35 performers but we decided to put forward solo singers Jerusha Frimpong, Becky Downes, Stephen Ayayi Brown and Dennese Manyasi as well as solo dancer Leonie Banya and dance group Young Generation."



T Factor 2009 finalists with the judges and host

The six finalists will battle it out to become the overall winner of The T Factor 2009 at the final which will be taking place at this year's Trust Thamesmead Summer Festival, with one overall winner going on to support the headline act on the main stage and winning a recording session at Abbey Music Studios.

Manor Close Mural

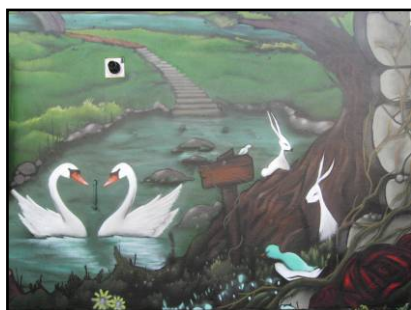
In February Trust Community Development Officer Linda Delieu was approached by the Bexley Community Safety Partnership (BCSP) team who had some funding for a clear-up in East Thamesmead. Cue much thinking and the idea was born of working with local graffiti artists in painting a mural on the side of Manor Close Community Centre.

With the BCSP team leading the project and engaging with 30-35 young people, the mural has now been completed.

Julian Phethean from Positive Arts, who designed the picture, said: "We were called in to help because the side wall was regularly being damaged by graffiti.

"By working with the local young people, many of whom admitted they were the culprits, we have transformed it into an uplifting piece of art which has had a positive affect on the young people; they now feel they have ownership of it and want to protect it."

These sentiments were echoed by Donna Vero from the BCSP team: "We involved the young people who were hanging around outside from day one. When we asked them if they would still graffiti the wall and they said they wouldn't because of the work that they had put into it.



"It has been fantastic working in this area. The residents now know people care about them and their environment. We have reached out to so many young people, some of which we have sign posted to the Archway Project, the London Fire Brigade and to training providers.

Linda added: "The project and the sessions set aside for engagement around the idea and then the design have allowed both the Trust and BCSP to engage intensively with local residents. I was amazed at how enthusiastic and pro-active some of the residents are and how they want to help to improve the area. "Action has taken place regarding the problem of fly tipping in the area and very positive relationships have been developed between the residents and Bexley Council's Environmental Department. We are also working with BCSP and Thames 21 and planning a 'Clean up the Canal' event at Manor Close in August.

“The area has a Neighbourhood Watch and some residents attend the regular Neighbourhood Panel Meetings. It is a pleasure to work with the residents of Manor Close and the users of the community centre who are all playing a part in making a difference to Manor Close. I am sure that some of these residents will take up our offer of Community Development training in the very near future.”

Goos-E-Ganders Funding

With the help of the Trust parent and toddler group Goos-E-Ganders has successfully secured just over £4,000 funding from the Capital Community Foundation. Goose-E-Ganders applied for funding through the Grassroots Grants Scheme and were notified of their successful bid in March.

Trust Community Development Officer Romel Holmes-Lewis said: “Goos-E-Ganders now have sufficient funding to really move the group forward. Not only that but the service the group provides in West Thamesmead is an essential one that can hopefully be used as best practice for other groups of the same nature.”

Goos-E-Ganders is a parent/carer and toddler group that offers stay and play sessions, a place to meet new people and a place to share knowledge and parenting skills. It is based at the Discovery School Children’s Centre in West Thamesmead. The best way to contact Goos-E-Ganders is to visit the children’s centre in Battery Road between 9:15 and 11:15 on Tuesdays or by phoning through to the children’s centre on 020 8855 4320.

Jack Petchey Awards

The cAve recently hosted Thamesmead YMCA Sailing Club’s Jack Petchey Foundation Achiever Awards ceremony which was attended by more than 85 young people.



Four members of the Thamesmead YMCA Sailing Club (above front row); Nikesha Patel, Jack Stevens, Tim Lawson and Alex Cunningham were presented with a framed certificate and £200 each by the Mayor of Greenwich Steve Offord.

The £800 presented on behalf of The Jack Petchey Foundation is for the winners to spend on equipment for their club, which the four agreed should be spent on life jackets, rigging and first aid.

Leader of Thamesmead YMCA Sailing Club George Reynolds OBE said: “The Jack Petchey Awards are special because they reward achievement rather than winners. We have more than 250 members at the sailing club from different backgrounds who have different skills and abilities.

The Jack Petchey Foundation Achiever Awards are given to programmes and projects that benefit young people aged 11-25 and are designed to help young people take advantage of opportunities and to play a full part in society. Grants of more than £50 million have been given since the establishment of the Foundation in 1999.

Local and Community History Month Events

Join Trust Thamesmead during Local and Community History Month at one of our free film nights; showing visual displays including new and exciting developments and DVDs old and new of Thamesmead followed by a discussion of the area with free refreshments.

Wednesday 20 May 6:00-9:00pm
Greenmead Community Centre | 1 Lime Row off Yarnton Way | DA18 4HW

Tuesday 26 May 4:30-6:30pm
Arnott Community Centre | 3 Arnott Close off Titmuss Avenue | SE28 8BG

Wednesday 27 May 4:00-6:00pm
Broadwater Village Hall | 1c Goosander Way | West Thamesmead | SE28 0ER

Thursday 28 May 12:00-3:00pm
Limestone Community Hall | 2-4 Limestone Walk | DA18 4BW

Wednesday 3 June 4:00-6:00pm
Jubilee Community Centre | Lytton Strachey path off Titmuss Avenue | SE28 8DU

More info? Call the Trust's Community Development on 020 8320 4470.

Trust Thamesmead Summer Festival

Don't forget to put Saturday 11 July in your diary. That's the date for this year's Summer Festival in Birchmere Park which promises to be yet again be a fantastic community event for Thamesmead residents. You can checkout all the up to date news on the festival on the Trust website: www.trust-thamesmead.co.uk