

Building a community

Youth Consultation in Rotherhithe – report of meeting with Michael Connors 11th November 2003

A. My views are as follows:

1. There has been a great deal of progress in establishing a nucleus of young people from the Canada Water Consultation Area.
2. The consultation programme undertaken this summer will have provided excellent training for life for the young people involved.
3. The report and ideas generated by the young people concerned will be of great interest to the Forum. It is essential to ensure that this is recognised, that their achievements are shown to have been of value and that recommendations made by them will be taken into account and acted on.
4. There is some way to go before a structure can be developed which will provide a long term and consistent basis by which young people's views can be fed in to the consultation process.
5. There is a need to continue building on the work done. This will require a commitment from Southwark to resourcing an appropriate youth involvement strategy) throughout the duration of community building efforts in Rotherhithe. This is likely to be a minimum 5 year process.

B. The questions then are:

1. What action should be taken as regards reporting back to the Forum on Monday 17th and
2. How should the youth presentation be managed and thereafter what future action should be taken to build on their achievements.

C. Action Recommended.

1. A brief written report detailing the process taken to recruit and gain involvement of young people so far and outlining the current state of play should be submitted to the Forum. This could be presented to the Canada Water Forum by Michael Connors and Llinos McVicar or should they prefer by me. I would be happy to help draft it and add my signature to it if felt appropriate.
2. Forum members should be invited to a presentation by the young people involved (preferably before Christmas) so as to get their views and achieve the requirements of point 3 above.
3. Continuation of a youth involvement exercise should be built into the consultation strategy for Canada Water in conjunction with the Master Developers and London Borough of Southwark. Whilst resources should be defined, allocated and funded on the basis of specific recommendations made in conjunction with youth services it should be noted that it could well be part of a process which could extend over the entire period of redevelopment of Canada Water and other developments in the area.

David Brunskill
Chair, Canada Water Consultation Forum
12th November 2003