

# AREA FORUM (BROMBOROUGH AND EASTHAM)

Wednesday, 16 June 2010

## Present:

Councillor	T Harney (Chair)
Councillors	P Gilchrist D Mitchell R Moon S Niblock I Williams
Community Representatives	Mark Craig
Older People's Parliament Representative	Brian Christian
Lead Officer	Mark Parkinson, Head of Learning & Achievement, Children and Young People's Department
Area Co-ordinator	Louise Harland-Davies
Street Scene Manager	Phil Miner
Wirral University Teaching Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	John Foster
NHS Wirral	Jo Harvey
Merseyside Police	Inspector Andrew Wise
Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service	Ian Maxwell
In Attendance	David Thompson (Peel Holdings), Dean Hammond (General Manager Manchester Ship Canal), Liz Hawkins (Youth Outreach Worker), Ema Boddison (Minute Taker)
<u>Apologies</u>	Jon Wyles

## 1 **WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS & APOLOGIES:**

The Chair, Councillor Tom Harney, welcomed forum members and 120 members of the public to the meeting. Cllr Harney asked that Peel Holdings give their presentation first due to time restraints and explained that once presentation was concluded the forum would move onto 'You Decide'.

## 2 **PEEL HOLDINGS: AN OVERALL STRATEGY FOR THE MANCHESTER SHIP CANAL**

**PEEL HOLDINGS: AN OVERALL STRATEGY FOR THE MANCHESTER SHIP CANAL**

David Thompson Development Planning Manager for Peel Holdings and Dean Hammond for Manchester Ship Canal introduced themselves to the forum then David gave a presentation which is summarised below.

### **SUMMARY OF PRESENTATION**

1. An introduction to the Peel Group companies and Peel's main interests in the North West.
2. An outline of two concepts being promoted by Peel, these being Ocean Gateway (related to a number of strategic development proposals along the River Mersey / Manchester Ship Canal corridor) and SuperPort (relating primarily to Peel's Port and Airport interests i.e. the Port of Liverpool, the Manchester Ship Canal and Liverpool John Lennon Airport).
3. An introduction to Peel Ports interests, including the Port of Liverpool and the Manchester Ship Canal and details as to how both facilities are now combined within Peel Ports and are operated efficiently together.
4. Further background information on the Manchester Ship Canal itself including the dates of its construction, key products transported, other functions of the canal, together with a brief explanation of Peel's review of the canal's current infrastructure, future operator and site accessibility (road, rail and canal) requirements.
5. The identification of 4 new key infrastructure projects along the Canal (which are Port Salford, Port Warrington, Port Ince and Port Wirral) which are proposed to address the need to upgrade and modernise certain existing port facilities. Details of the nature and function of each of these proposed facilities was given. The illustrative proposals for Port Wirral (on land between the QEII Dock at Eastham and Booston Wood, Ellesmere Port) were broadly described.
6. The benefits Peel expect to arise from its proposals for the Manchester Ship Canal (which include the more sustainable transportation of freight) and the importance of these proposals to the North West Region was summarised.
7. A summary of Peel's anticipated timescales for preparing more detailed proposals for Port Wirral was given along with commitments to consult with the community again in due course. Timescales for further consultation were estimated to be around late 2010 / early 2011.

8. The presentation concluded with an invitation for questions from the audience.

Further information on the Ocean Gateway concept and Peel's port investment proposals can be found within Peel's Ocean Gateway Prospectus (October 2009) which can be downloaded via the following web site link:

[www.peel.co.uk/group/page.aspx?ID=66](http://www.peel.co.uk/group/page.aspx?ID=66) or via Peel's overall web site at: [www.peel.co.uk](http://www.peel.co.uk)

**Questions raised by members of the public:**

**Q1 Are you going to use resources from Wirral if you are claiming to improve Wirral?**

**We don't want employment going to outside areas, are you going to use local traders and workers**

**A** We would encourage the use of local services and local recruitment as much as possible however we cannot absolutely guarantee it in every case.

**Q2 Can you assure us that it will not increase traffic in Eastham?**

**A** The main areas for development in Port Wirral scheme are accessed via West and North Road will link with the motorway. In addition we would encourage traffic to use these routes through signage and establishing them as "approved routes" to avoid heavy traffic affecting the village

**Q3 We get heavy traffic now. Lorries are always coming through Eastham. Approved routes mean nothing as people don't take notice.**

**Q4 Sat Navs seem to route traffic down here frequently, namely HGVs.**

**A** We will take these comments back and consider if there is a way of addressing issues related to Sat Navs.

**Q5 Cllr Tom Harney – Local traffic is a major issue. People have a problem as to where they should go to as a lot of trucks and lorries come here – who do we contact?**

**A** Wagons originating from the tank farms should not go through the village. We think that many of the lorries are actually related to other businesses in the locality, not all of them will relate to the Port.

**Q6 How is this project to be funded?**

**A** Typically a phase or development will come forward when a potential operator of a site wishes to advance a scheme or if Peel sees the need to upgrade its Port facilities, but we are not at that stage yet and economic and market conditions do not currently support this type of investment coming forward in this case

**Q7 We need reassurance that Peel would consider the type of industry that they bring to Eastham area as so far they have been inappropriate such as waste disposal.**

**A** Most development schemes will need to be considered through the planning process and through the submission of planning applications. The impact of a scheme needs to be assessed through the process of preparing an application and by the Council in considering and granting any consent. It will be easier to consider the potential effects of a particular scheme or type of development when it comes forward, at present a specific scheme is not coming forward. We are taking note of the issues you have raised and will consult with the community again on future proposals.

**Q8 Are you not going to take responsibility of what goes on the land then?**

**A** We will carefully consider proposals that come forward and they will be subject to the planning process.

**Q9. I hear the idea of turning waste into electricity is not going to happen?**

**A** That is not progressing and there are no specific proposals at the present time.

**Q10 In relation to port and property development, there is no mention of Port Birkenhead. What is happening?**

**A** In that regeneration scheme new homes, businesses and leisure facilities etc are proposed, with the transfer of port facilities from East Float to West Float.

**Q11 You had total disregard for Ince, the Council said no to that proposal so why would you listen to us?**

**Public Comment – you are about making money and as long as you do that you won't care about us.**

**A** Through the Ocean Gateway strategy Peel is trying to encourage regeneration - create jobs and economic growth through investment. Some schemes focus on for example renewable energy generation, some on sustainable transport (through the Port) and others new housing. I have covered some of the benefits of the strategy in the presentation but I would encourage you to look at the Ocean Gateway Maps handed out today and (if you have access to the internet) Peel's web site. These will give further information and explanation of the benefits expected from individual projects and the overall concept.

**Q12 What is Peel Holdings? Peel has taken over Merseyside and Manchester? Do you have shares? Stocks? Are you democratically accountable? Does your Chairman live here?**

**A** Peel is a private company. Information on Peel is available on Peel's website, within today's handouts and within the Ocean Gateway strategy. Peel's proposals will be subject to the planning process.

**Q13** **When plans are passed are you going to do anything about noise of the ships?**

**A** Is this still an issue?  
**Public Response: Yes**

**A** Specific vessels which have had clear and obvious noise issues have been corrected in the past and we are open to do this in the future. We will look into this for you.

**Q14** **Are you aware of the noise? Do you know what I mean?**

**Q15** **What facilities? You are denying the fact that the canal is not wide enough for ships to be turned? If you are increasing the size of the ships coming into the canal what are you doing to the canal itself to turn them?**

**A** There are no plans at present for new turning facilities at Port Wirral. Ships can be turned at Stanlow.

**Public comment – I have been up the canal on a tug and they have to be turned at Stanlow.**

**Q16** **There has already been two business projects refused, what is the environmental impact? We live in Eastham, you don't! Can you assure the safety of residents which is paramount?**

**A** Environmental impact assessments are essential. We have to be satisfied before anything goes ahead.

**Q17** **50 year plan?! A lot of us are not going to be here in 50 years so you will just go ahead with it.**

**A** The Ocean Gateway concept covers a wide range of projects, some of which will take many years to complete. They are not all being developed at the same time and under the present planning system each will need its own planning consent

**Q18: Cllr Dave Mitchell:** why do Peel Holdings intend to continue with Port Wirral, as the Bowater site already has a docking area and is nearer to both rail and the motorway links?

**A:** The Bowater site for port related uses would be additional and complementary to Port Wirral rather than instead of it.

**Cllr Tom Harney –** Peel Holdings can tell us who to contact and at least that would be a small step. If you have any questions write them down and put your name,

address and e-mail and Peel Holdings will get back to you. Peel Holdings are prepared to come along again.

The chair then thanked Peel Holdings for the presentation.

### 3 **YOU DECIDE:**

Mark Parkinson( CYPD) explained that members of the community are invited to take part in the **You Decide Survey 2010** to indicate where £20,000 of additional council services could be spent. He explained the voting process and then gave a short presentation. Results will be taken back to the office and information will be collated and reported on at the next forum and on the website.

**Q (Public Member)** – what if you want something that is not there?

**Mark Parkinson** – write it at the bottom of the card.

### 4 **MINUTES & AREA CO-ORDINATORS REPORT:**

Louise Harland – Davies, Area Co-ordinator highlighted information in her report:

- Pg 3 partner updates.
- Matters arising: Sefton Road, New Ferry – parking problems still ongoing
- **Integrated Transport Block Funding:** The area forum has £18,200 of funding for road safety schemes such as dropped kerbs etc. Public to complete suggestion and location forms
- **Winter Resilience funding:** £5000 had been made available for additional grit bins so public to complete location forms.

**Ian Maxwell** (Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service) informed the forum that there will be a fire exercise in Eastham tomorrow so not to be alarmed.

**Liz Hawkins** (Youth Outreach Worker) then read out a letter on behalf of young people who live in the Bromborough and Eastham area thanking the area forum for the additional activities provided which were funded through last year's You Decide money.

The Chair thanked the area co-ordinator for the report and minutes were agreed as a true record.

**Q (Public Member)** – with regards to the youth service, in the previous minutes the You Decide update refers to 'all Wirral young people' however this only targets 13 – 19 year olds.

**Liz Hawkins** – We really mean all young people

**Q (Public Member)** – Is the play rangers scheme coming back to Eastham?

**Liz Hawkins** – We can't confirm this at the moment.

**Q (Public Member)** –The sessions that Roz does are for age range 5 – 11 years, the children won't use it because it is too far away. We have nothing this side of the Estate.

**Liz Hawkins** – I take my services to where the people are, that is my role – outreach, it would be good to have a meeting with you so we can do a plan of action. I will get your details at the end.

## 5 **AREA FORUM BUSINESS:**

### **AREA FORUM BUSINESS: ELECTION OF CHAIR**

Cllr Gilchrist proposed to re-elect Cllr Tom Harney as Chair – this was agreed by all forum members.

**Q (Public Member)** – it should be the people who elect a chair, not you. We make the effort to be here so put it to the public vote.

**Cllr Gilchrist** – if you write in with your suggestions we will look into it. When this system was set up it was agreed that we needed a chair to attend every meeting all year round.

**Minute Decision: Cllr Tom Harney re-elected as area forum chair.**

## 6 **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME:**

Mark Parkinson informed forum members that Children and Young People's Department was successful in a bid to the Central Government co-location fund in June 2009 for a sum of £927.000. The purpose being to co-locate multi-disciplinary professionals together in area based teams to ensure children's needs are met. The Delamere Centre could be a potential site in line with the council's Strategic Asset Review for co-locating a team. As the neighbouring Children's Centre was growing and expanding its services. Catherine McCormack on behalf of the Headteachers for South Wirral had requested that area team staff, working with local children and families, should be located in the area as apposed to West Wirral where they are currently based. Space is also needed for more supervised contact for children and their families.

Children and Young People's Department are aware that a community group in Eastham were keen to look at taking over the running of the centre. The Department

has had a number of meetings with the group in order to see if the needs of both parties can be met within one building. These discussions are currently ongoing.

**Lewis McDonald – Secretary for Eastham Community Group** – explained how Eastham Community Group was involved in ‘Help save the library’ in February 09 and were keen to save the Delamere from potential closure as a lot of local groups would lose their base.

**Liz Hawkins** – (Youth Outreach Worker) informed the forum that the youth hub will be launching one week from Thursday. It will be open Monday – Saturday. Young people can access various activities and Margaret Ellard will be the manager.

**Lewis McDonald** – regarding the Strategic Asset Review, the Conservatives have said they would overturn it if they won. Has there been any changes in the policy?

**Cllr Tom Harney** – the Strategic Asset Review is on the agenda and will be discussed at the next Cabinet meeting due to be held next week.

## 7 **FUTURE MEETINGS:**

The chair thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting. The next area forum will be Monday 4<sup>th</sup> October, venue to be confirmed.