

## 8.0 STAGE FOUR - SECOND STAGE CONSULTATION



### 8.1 BACKGROUND

This stage of the process was carried out over a six week period in May and June. It was expanded to include key meetings with other major stakeholders outside of the Steering Group and to gauge levels of interest from Developers.

The core elements of the second phase of consultation were:-

- Public Exhibition at the 1912 centre.
- Harwich Masterplan Website.
- A Public meeting.
- Feedback Forms.
- Focus group meetings.
- Stakeholder dialogue.

### 8.2 SUMMARY

#### 8.2.1 Public Exhibition

14 days of exhibition spread over three weeks at the 1912 Centre in Harwich. Dawn Cooper and Mat Cork were in attendance on 28 May 2005 to answer any queries.

A 111 people signed the attendance list, though observed footfall appeared to be much higher than this and 137 Copies of the report were taken by residents

#### Feedback:

- **Almost entirely positive feedback on the revised concepts.**
- **Positive feedback on provision of model.**
- **Concern over scale of buildings and need to 'ramp' the height of buildings gradually towards the Navyard.**
- **Need to include the area between Harwich and Dovercourt.**
- **Scepticism - 'will it really happen?'**

#### 8.2.2 Website

Easily downloadable copies of the report and the feedback form were available from the website. Even without the benefit of broadband, the report was easy to download in its component elements.

#### 8.2.3 Public Meeting 6pm Saturday 28 May 2005

A formal presentation of the core elements was provided followed by an open question session and a 30 minute informal question and answer session (to enable quieter people to discuss the scheme).

#### Feedback:

- **Satisfaction with the development of the masterplan.**
- **Acknowledgement that comments raised in the previous round of consultation had been addressed.**
- **Support for the core concepts of the masterplan - particularly the quayside, open space areas and Navyard.**
- **Recognition that the second phase of consultation was more inclusive.**
- **Scepticism of the feasibility/reality of the concepts**
- **Concern over the provision of supporting services (health care and schools).**

#### 8.2.4 Feedback Form

The overall trends within the 43 submitted forms were relatively easy to establish and can be summarised as follows:

#### Support:

- **Scope and content of masterplan.**
- **Provision of overnight moorings along the quayside.**
- **Provision of new high lighthouse toilets.**
- **Need to improve impression on access.**





## OLD HARWICH REGENERATION

### Suggestions:

- **Need for public viewing in the HHA building or in a high level building along the quayside.**
- **Provision of residents permit parking.**
- **Standardisation of street signage.**
- **Possible subsidisation to attract a celebrity chef restaurant.**
- **Provision of a new arts centre.**
- **Location of LV18 as a permanent museum on Ha'penny Pier.**
- **Need to maintain and improve Esplanade Hall.**
- **Provision of an annexe to the Low Lighthouse Museum.**
- **Extension to the Lifeboat Museum.**
- **Provision of a transport museum in the railway interchange.**

### Concerns:

- **Feasibility of options**
- **Lack of exact timelines**
- **Access and parking for the disabled along the quayside**
- **Concern over adequacy of residents parking**
- **Need for Navyard employment to stay local**
- **Extent of pedestrianisation (continued car access desired)**
- **Need for provision of affordable housing**
- **Demolition of council garages**
- **Loss of existing railway building**
- **Need to maintain public open space adjacent to the Wellington Road mural**
- **Loss of Fishing berths**
- **Scale of new development**

### 8.2.5 Focus Groups

Following on from the Phase One consultation work, key focus groups were identified for direct contact. The groups were not intended to cover every activity or interest within the town, rather they were developed from the Phase One work, as representing critical interests relating to core components of the masterplan.

Key focus groups were as follows:

#### The Harwich Society

The Harwich Society are represented on the steering group, but have also provided the following written comments:

### Suggestions:

- **Provision of a viewing building in the HHA building**
- **Provision of enhanced facilities at Esplanade Hall**
- **Potential creation of an annexe at the Low Lighthouse**
- **Potential creation of an annexe at the Lifeboat museum**
- **Retention of the Station Building for museum purposes**

#### Recreation Group (6 June 2005 at the 1912 Centre)

Attended by representatives of the Harwich Sailing Club, Harwich Town Council and local residents.

### Feedback:

- **Need to clearly articulate the needs of the sailing community;**
- **Support for revised approaches shown to open space and access around the town.**

Details of the Sailing Club requirements are contained in the Appendices





## OLD HARWICH REGENERATION

### 8.2.6 Transport Group (Individual Meetings)

#### **Theo Steele** (One Railway)

Supportive of masterplan;  
Passively supportive of new transport interchange  
Supportive of the retention of the existing station building for housing etc.

#### **Steve Smith** (First Buses)

Supportive of masterplan;  
Happy to support new interchange providing that adequate space around the building is made available for the bus depot and overnight parking etc;  
Need for removal of on street parking adjacent to new interchange.

#### **Jon Wilson** (Network Rail)

Supportive of masterplan;  
Accept in principal the sale of the existing station forecourt and sidings area.

#### **Les Double** (Harwich Conexions)

Supportive of the masterplan. Have raised concern over the level of provision for community transport.

Have offered the parcel of land fronting Wellington Road and to the rear of the Life Boat Museum for the provision of an Art Centre. LD has stressed that the provision of community services should be at the heart of regeneration.

#### **Alan Sage** (Footferry)

Supportive of the development of the quayside aspects

### 8.2.7 Commercial Group

#### **Alan Robson** (Chair) Chamber of Commerce

Meeting on 24 May 2005 in The Pier Hotel -  
Supportive of masterplan.  
Concern over existing pubs being driven out by franchise operators, but otherwise, eager to see implementation of plan.

#### **Fishermans Association**

Meeting on 7 June 2005 in The Hanover Public House, attended by Matt Cork and ten local commercial fisherman.  
The fishermen were asked to specify their requirements in the context of the redevelopment of the quayside and have requested the following:

#### Capital assets:

- Exclusive and dedicated berthing for all local commercial fishermen, the area marked in the proposed plans as 'visitors berths' to be exclusively for commercial fishermen.
- Parking spaces for fishermen equal to 50% of berths
- Berths from pontoons
- 24-hour access to pontoons to allow for safe transshipping and transcending, loading and unloading.
- The proposed new arm to the proposed "new visitor area" to have a right angled extension to limit entry of rough seas during NE gale
- Lifting davit capable of lifting 15 tons

#### Services:

- Accessible Electric supply
- Pressure washing facilities
- Accessible Fresh water
- Adequate lighting to enable safe loading/unloading at night
- Fuel tank to be relocated to new fuelling berth.

These requirements should be considered in any detailed development of the Quayside facilities as they will provide an interesting and active addition to the quayfront.





## OLD HARWICH REGENERATION

### 8.2.8 Local Groups

In addition to the discussions with the focus groups, local groups with an interest in the masterplan were engaged and the following feedback obtained.

#### Pharos Trust (Lightvessel LV18)

Suggested the use of LV18 to be moored on the landward side of Ha'Penny Pier on permanent pile berthing. The vessel and the Pirate Radio museum were suggested as major potential tourism attractions to the area. It was also suggested that funding could be sought within a regeneration initiative for improvements to the exterior of the vessel, the interior being in excellent condition.

\*The use of LV18 in this manner was also supported by four written responses.

#### National Vintage Wireless + TV Museum (High Lighthouse)

Need to recognise the building and the museum as a central consideration in the masterplan. Supportive of the provision of a new toilet block and visitors centre next to the High Lighthouse.

#### Friends of the Earth

Several written submissions from Friends of the Earth have been received, such submissions are also forwarded on behalf of "Residents Against Port Expansion" (RAPE)."

#### Concerns:

- **Inadequate consideration to parking provision; Environmental impacts of infrastructure central to the masterplan**
- **Preference for an enhanced footferry service over the suggested car ferry (since a footferry is accessible to pedestrian passengers).**
- **Remain concerned over the timing of the masterplan, suggestion being that the plan is being progressed too quickly.**

- **Accept principle of high density new development (in line with FoE policy) but also stress concern over impacts of this on character of town.**
- **Stress concern over any loss of commercial employment land to provide for housing.**
- **Unsure of the merits of a new marina, given the scale of traffic that this may generate.**
- **Suggest that the station forecourt area is a valuable open space area that they would not wish to see lost to residential development.**
- **Unhappy about scale of development, with over 5+ floor buildings being suggested as not acceptable in Harwich.**
- **Suggest the use of eco-friendly development wherever possible as a positive asset and attraction to the area.**

Many of these points, such as "Green Issues" and traffic generation, will be considered in greater detail when proposals for development areas are submitted. All new development in Harwich should seek to be environmentally and economically sustainable and as well as adding to the grain and character of the existing Old Town.

