

Royal Gunpowder Mills meeting the 6th of October 2018

-presented by EFDC external bodies representative Cllr Helen Kane

The Chairman opened the meeting welcoming Dave Sims as the Chair of the Friends Association

The **Way Forward** is being expanded and other supporting documents are being produced by the Operating Company. A future for New Hill is under active discussion. There is also discussion for the prospect of joining the site with the Lea valley site – next door – by a bridge. Although this option is not new, and the idea has been in the future development plans for some years now, it is one of the items for consideration again, liaising with the neighbouring authority.

It is worth mentioning that the Business Plan of the WARGM is an on-going process with the Trust, as it is now a good working group in place -progress to be monitored throughout the negotiations.

Emphasis has also been given on the educational stats, as the Operating company is seeking to increase the number of participations of the local schools and expand even further to other nearby areas. So now there are 2,459 schools targeted – throughout the District including Broxbourne and Redbridge.

A new leaflet has been printed (about 1000 in numbers) and will be distributed in the area by volunteers. Currently, it is impossible to judge the success of this leaflet, as there is no obvious feedback on the leaflet itself – but it was proposed, in the future, to include an incentive, so the increase of visitors due to the leafleting is more easily monitored. The operating company is currently reviewing clerical structures with the view to monitor success of current and future marketing strategy.

The CEO, Stella Morris, mentioned the importance of the EFDC Chairman's Civic Lunch in the premises, on the 20th of September, and I made sure the members of the Board were aware of the Chairman's guests' pleasure and entertainment during the visit as well as how well organised the whole event was.

In my last report I mentioned that a potential developer was interested in the site and that caused some reaction by members. I informed the Board of the WARGM, that there are Councillors who are willing to offer their expertise through their profession and gave details for the CEO to contact them.

I am positive that both, the Chairman, Dr Freeman and the CEO, Mrs Morris, are willing to discuss future development of the site and their plans, as soon as they have further information on this subject, with the stakeholders.

Cllr Helen Kane