

ORPINGTON PRIORY REGENERATION PROJECT

To all you wonderful supporters of OPRP!

At the moment we are not giving out a lot of information as everything is still being planned; so we would ask that you respect this until we are ready to 'go public'.

Here are some extracts from our draft plans to give you an idea of where we are heading—

The proposal is that the Priory buildings are used as a business meetings and functions venue, which is also open to the Bromley community and general public, regardless of financial circumstances, race, religion, sex or disability, as a Heritage and Arts centre, meeting diverse cultural, heritage, business, educational and community needs.

A tea-room will be incorporated along with toilets and washrooms for the comfort of visitors to the centre and the Priory Gardens. A new car park and local signs will be planned.

The proposal assumes that an appropriate form of charitable trust will, with the agreement of the London Borough of Bromley [the owners of the property], have a board of Trustees which will manage the Priory. It is envisaged that the Board would include trustees who may have expertise in the performing arts, heritage, education and local business in addition to those who may be Law, Finance, HR and IT professionals.

Some staff will be employed for the day to day management of the centre but it is proposed that volunteers [possibly including young people undertaking work experience or apprenticeships] will make up part of the workforce.

Aims

- *Conserve, restore and enhance the heritage value of the Priory*
- *Develop a self-funding venue, providing community benefit.*
- *Provide a community-owned focal point for Orpington, which is welcoming and accessible*
- *Promote public enjoyment and participation in heritage and culture*
- *Celebrate the achievements of Bromley Borough people*
- *Promote pride in the area and encourage community spirit and cohesion*
- *Interpret the borough's heritage and culture in engaging and inspiring ways*

Objectives

- *Restore, repair and rebuild areas of the buildings which are identified as needing attention.*
- *Reconfigure internal areas to create multi-purpose space for proposed activities and for income generation with comfort amenities (WCs, a tea-room).*
- *Establish partnerships with other local, regional and national heritage & cultural organisations. Local organisations will include community, voluntary, arts and cultural groups, local heritage societies, schools and businesses.*
- *Deliver a wide range of events and activities to span the generations - children, young people, young professionals, families and older people, regardless of financial circumstances, race, religion, sex or disability.*
- *To offer a stimulating, safe, fun and friendly environment for all visitors to the Priory and a safe working environment for both paid employees and volunteers.*
- *Generate sufficient income for the Priory to become self-funding.*

ORPINGTON PRIORY REGENERATION PROJECT

We will, of course, want to make good use of any professional expertise or advice you can offer. We hope a meeting can take place in the Priory soon so you can have a look around and meet the steering group. This will be during the day so please let me know if you have any difficulties in that respect.

Future meetings can take place in the evenings.

The steering group is very excited about the project and look forward to meeting and working with you.

Orpington Priory Regeneration Project

Current Steering Group:

Sally Pennington
Richard Gibbons
Eileen Vassie
Sharon Baldwin
Margot Rohan

Contact - Tel: 01689 839191 Mob: 07519109171 Email: OrpingtonCommunity@gmail.com