



YOUNG PEOPLE HAVE THEIR SAY ON REGENERATION IN BOGNOR REGIS **St Modwen holds youth workshops**

Students from two Bognor Regis schools met with St Modwen and its architect, KSS Design, last week to discuss the proposals to regenerate the Regis Centre and Hothampton sites in Bognor Regis.

The 17 students aged 14/15 from Bognor Regis Community College and Felpham Community College were invited by St Modwen to form a schools' workshop panel as part of the first stage of community wide public consultation on the initial design concepts.

A number of the students taking part also had a vocational interest in the proposals as they are currently taking Young Apprenticeship courses in construction and architecture. Some are also considering GCSEs in Design Technology and Graphics or Geography. The students were able to quiz the architect on many aspects of the proposals and were also given an insight into how architecture, alongside the development and planning processes, shape town centres.

Comments James Budd from KSS Design: "It was great to speak to such enthusiastic students and hear their experiences in Bognor Regis and their own creative ideas for their town. They all contributed with their thoughts on the issues facing their town and we got some great ideas and feedback from the lively session." In particular; facilities such as the bowling alley, the open and active seafront and the new Entertainment Centre were seen as exciting new opportunities to what they thought were some of the existing "boring" or "shabby" characteristics of the town.

Jamie Greenhill from Bognor Regis Community College commented: "It is really important that we get the chance to talk about our ideas as people say that we are the future and I don't think the opinions of young people are heard often enough. It's really exciting that there will be more things to do so we don't have to travel so far for good modern facilities."

Josh Clayton from Felpham Community College commented: “It is great for us to be able to have our say and for the developer to get to know our ideas for the future of the town; otherwise it will just be older people making comments and we need things in the town for kids to do as well as adults.”

Concluded James Budd from KSS: “It was great to see such a sense of optimism, interest and excitement about the idea of regeneration in their hometown, the processes that will shape it and the new opportunities that will be made available in Bognor Regis. We look forward to having further discussions with them again in a few months when our proposals will be much further advanced.”

St Modwen will meet with the schools’ again to coincide with the second public consultation in spring/summer before a planning submission in autumn 2008.

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Notes to editor

Background

The scheme represents a £100m regeneration of two key town centre sites in Bognor Regis, West Sussex.

After a competition between developers and extensive public consultation, St Modwen was chosen by Arun as its preferred developer in July 2006 on the strength of its proposals to deliver a comprehensive mixed-use scheme – to include an entertainment centre and bowling alley, plus a new health centre and library, along with shops, restaurants, cafés/bars, homes and extensive works to the promenade and the pedestrianisation of The Esplanade.

A key aspect of the proposals is the Entertainment Centre; a ‘destination’ film and performance venue, including a cinema and flexible performing arts space. St Modwen is currently marketing the opportunity to interested managing operators UK wide. The developer is also looking to build a unique ‘building on the beach’ as an architectural landmark, which could house a high profile restaurant.

St Modwen is hoping to start on site in late 2009 / early 2010 with completion in 2013/4.

The sites

The two sites, as identified in the masterplan adopted by Arun District Council in 2004, are the ‘Leisure Heart’ site, now referred to as the Regis Centre and the ‘Healthy Living’ site now referred to as the Hothampton site. The Regis Centre site is located between Clarence Road, Belmont Street and the seafront. The Hothampton site is located west of London Road and bounded by Queensway, West Street and Steyne Street.

The developer

St. Modwen Properties Plc (St Modwen) is the U.K.'s leading regeneration specialist operating in all sectors of the property industry, focusing on town centre regeneration, brownfield land renewal and heritage restoration.

St Modwen works extensively in partnership with private and public sector organisations, continually mindful of the impact of their developments on the communities in which they operate. More information can be found at www.stmodwen.co.uk

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