**WE'RE TRYING TO BE MODEL CITIZENS!**

Residents create scale model of Peckham Rye development plan

By Amelia Burr

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A SCALE model of a town centre is being handcrafted by a group of residents, who want to make it easy for everyone to get involved in the redevelopment of the area.

Around 35 enthusiastic novices signed up to build the cardboard model of the area around Peckham Rye station so local people and developers can literally play around with their ideas.

The £25million project to restore the historic station came to a grinding halt in February when there was a public outcry against Network Rail’s plan to demolish a number of buildings housing small businesses in roads around the station.

“It’s about discussing and airing views about what this site is best used for in the town centre economy,” said Eileen Conn of community action group, Peckham Vision, who spearheaded the model making scheme.

“It’s so exciting,” she said, “It’s the sort of thing we are imagining will be enormously helpful in the community engagement exercises.”

The willing recruiters have been tasked with taking photographs of their chosen building and using only cardboard, to recreate the building at scale 1:100.

“This is cheap and cheerful,” said Eileen. “It’s not 100 per cent accurate but it’s good enough.”

The model makers are half way through eight workshop sessions led by local residents and architects, Benedict O’Looney and Clyde Watson.

“It’s really important around the station,” said Benedict, who has also been leading on the restoration of the station’s waiting room. “It deserves to be treated with maximum care. And we thought it would be fun to bring people together. It’s a lot of work but so many people have done great.”

Last week the council announced that a ‘community engagement specialist’ from Ash Sakula architects has been appointed to the project to make sure the community has a say in deciding what happens on the site.

“We are really looking forward to working with them,” said Eileen, who is hoping to get a date soon for the first community engagement session.

A spokesperson for Ash Sakula said they were in the process of scheduling venues for the consultation and hoped the first event would be on Thursday June 26, with opening times and venue for a pop-up consultation hub to be confirmed in the next two weeks.

“It’s really important that everybody has their fair say about the plans for Peckham Rye station and the surrounding area,” said Fiona Colley, former cabinet member for regeneration at Southwark Council and now cabinet member for Finance.

“There are many businesses and people that want to get involved as partners in co-designing this project and that’s what I want to encourage.”

Harriet Harman, MP for Peckham, attended a major contributor of the local area, and indeed our borough, adding to Peckham’s vibrant mix.”

**ANIMAL MANSION OPENS AT SURREY DOCKS**

Farm project aims to help adults with learning disabilities

By Ellie Ross

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SURREY DOCKS Farm celebrated the launch of its Small Animal Mansion with a grand opening on Tuesday.

The working city farm has converted a storage shed into a safe, secure home for rabbits and guinea pigs that will give the public better access to the animals.

The Surrey Quays Shopping Centre and one of the students of the Cow Pat programme, Harry Pusey, contributed towards the cost.

Harry and Ian Moore from the Shopping Centre cut the ribbon and popped champagne, before releasing three guinea pigs and three rabbits into their home.

The Cow Pat project is a weekly animal care project for adults with learning disabilities – and the new animal mansion will improve the lives of those involved.

Gary Jones, Surrey Docks Farm Manager, said: “Students like Harry clean out the animals and care for them.

“They love working with animals because they are calming and like being held. It gives the students meaningful jobs to do.

“This new space will give the students better access to the animals be able to carry out their work.

“The animals now have better living conditions – so the Animal Mansion is good news for everybody.”

**ROTHERHITHE**

**NEW YORK uni to open SE16 centre**

A NEW YORK University research centre is set to open an outpost in Canada Water as part of a new King’s College campus.

Boris Johnson confirmed the plans for a London version of NYU’s Centre for Urban Science and Progress on Monday.

It is hoped that the branch could be open by 2018.

The Big Apple’s version says it is a “unique public-private research centre that uses New York City as its laboratory and classroom to help cities around the world become more productive, livable, equitable, and resilient”.

As part of London Technology Week, it was revealed that King’s College London, the University of Warwick, were working with Bloomberg Associates, the Mayor of London’s Office and Southwark Council to advance the goal of establishing a CUsp London.

It would bring together researchers, businesses, local authorities and government agencies to apply urban science in improving public health and wellbeing. Once fully operational it would accommodate over 100 researchers and 500 students.

King’s College London won the right to build almost 800 student rooms earlier this year, in what is hoped will become a full-blown campus at Canada Water.