

dRMM joined by new names on major Peckham regeneration scheme

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Dowen Farmer Architects and Feix&Merlin have joined the recently appointed dRMM-led team regenerating the Aylesham Centre in Peckham, south London

The two locally based practices were revealed last month as the latest members of the design team working on the 2.7ha redevelopment following **dRMM's appointment** last August. Developer Berkeley Homes and Southwark Council say Dowen Farmer and Feix&Merlin will work alongside the already announced Jas Bhalla Architects and nintim architects on the scheme masterplanned by dRMM.

Designs for the scheme are due to be unveiled later this month as part of an initial public consultation on the latest proposals for the long-running – and highly controversial – development.

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Following **its appointment last year**, dRMM said it would collaborate with local firms so as to benefit from their 'understanding of the area and its unique dynamics' which would help shape the project so it 'resonates with the community it serves'.

That follows vocal opposition from local residents to previous plans drawn up by **Sheppard Robson** for 14 blocks of up to 27 storeys holding 1,050 homes (*pictured below*), which Southwark Council **described as 'not good enough'**.

A local community group, Aylesham Community Action (ACA), organised an online **petition** to oppose the scheme, which it called 'a massive overdevelopment with enormous buildings'. The petition received more than 7,200 signatures.

The group said the Sheppard Robson proposal would have created 'a citadel that will loom over lower-rise, historic Peckham', with half of the 14 proposed buildings over 10 storeys.

Under the new proposals, Feix&Merlin, Dowen Farmer and Jas Bhalla will design a section of the scheme facing Rye Lane, while Jas Bhalla and nintim are working on proposals for two other buildings.

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dRMM's masterplan will include around 6,500m² of residential space (850 homes), 10,500m² of commercial space and a 2,230m² replacement Morrisons supermarket as part of a two-phase development.

The design brief also sets limits on heights for areas facing Rye Lane. Buildings facing the high street cannot be more than seven storeys, while taller buildings will be placed at the back of the site.

The 2.71ha Aylesham Centre site currently houses a shopping centre, supermarket, car park and petrol station. It has been earmarked for new homes, retail, workspaces leisure uses and civic space.

Feix&Merlin director Tarek Merlin said: 'We are absolutely delighted to be involved in this project, and in such great company too. This is going to be a very collaborative approach to design that will, I think, create a diverse direction for this crucial site in Peckham.'

'On a personal note, I just wanted to say I am especially proud to be a part of this project. I have lived and worked in the area for over 20 years and, as a local resident and business owner, it is particularly meaningful for me to play a part in the future of Rye Lane.'

Downen Farmer co-founder Tom Farmer said: 'Having lived and worked in the area for the last 15 years, we have a deep-rooted connection with the area, not to mention our office space in Peckham Levels overlooks the site!

'The collaborative attitude the team are taking to the design process is refreshing, and we are excited to see the positive results that will undoubtedly come from such an inclusive approach.'

A previous [AHMM proposal](#) for the site's former owner, BlackRock, was never submitted and the plot was sold in the wake of local opposition during an early consultation stage. dRMM's masterplan is expected to be submitted this spring.

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