

**DATE : 27th August 2009**



## **DISAPPOINTMENT OVER REFUSAL OF GREENWICH MARKET REGENERATION PLANS**

Last night Greenwich Council Planning Board met and determined not to approve the proposals for the regeneration of Greenwich Market put forward by Greenwich Hospital.

Commenting today, Martin Sands, Director of Greenwich Hospital, said:

“We are all very disappointed that after three years of planning and support from many local stakeholders that the members of the Planning Board last night were unable to support the Market regeneration plans.

“The planning refusal is particularly disappointing as officers had recommended approval. We will now need to consider our next step; however, in the meantime, I’d like to thank all those in the Greenwich and Woolwich communities who so publicly gave us their support—in particular many traders and retailers in the market, the Key Stakeholder Consultative Group and the Community Liaison Group.

“Despite this setback, we remain committed to Greenwich Market and will continue to support our stallholders and shops in the market through our Shop Greenwich campaign and in other ways.

“We are proud to have nurtured local entrepreneurs and to have seen the creation of so many new independent shops in the town centre—15 this past year alone—and we are equally proud to have so many long-standing tenants, amongst them Warwick Leadlay celebrating 35 years in Greenwich this year, Hide All 22 years, Greenwich Printmakers 30 years, Pickwick Papers 34 years, Bullfrogs 20 years and Fergus Noone 21 years.

“Greenwich Hospital has worked closely on developing these plans with the local stakeholders. That working relationship will continue, and the Hospital will now meet with professional advisers to assess the next step.”

## **REFUSAL OF GREENWICH MARKET REGENERATION PLANS – more/2**

Commenting today, local MP, Nick Raynsford said:

“I am grateful to all members of the Key Stakeholder Consultative Group, stakeholders and residents who have been involved in the Hospital’s plans for the market regeneration and for the huge amount of input received from the local community.

“I believe this was, and still is the right scheme; to ensure a successful future for Greenwich town centre which preserves and enhances the market.

“I intend to meet with all parties concerned, and continue to support the sensible regeneration plans which preserve and enhance the market and Greenwich town centre.”

**- ENDS -**

For further information, contact:

Richard Sutcliffe–Smith or Kirsty Armstrong at Communiqué: 020 7866 7930.

### **Notes to Editors**

The rejected Greenwich Market regeneration plans proposed to maintain the character and diversity of Greenwich Market whilst introducing new uses such as the boutique hotel on King William Walk.

Under the proposals the existing market would remain, but with a new translucent canopy roof to give the market a brighter and more contemporary feel, providing more shelter and better shelter from the bad weather.

1950s buildings on the east side of the market would have been replaced with shops on the ground floor and hotel bedrooms on the three upper floors. A new building to the west of the market would have provided further shops on the ground floor with hotel rooms above and crescent shaped street to the rear.

## REFUSAL OF GREENWICH MARKET REGENERATION PLANS – more/3

### *Background*

Greenwich Hospital is a Crown charity, established in 1694, which provides charitable support to serving and retired men and women of the Royal Navy and Royal Marines and to their dependants. It devotes its resources to paying pensions; providing grants to naval charities, running three sheltered housing schemes; and awarding means tested bursaries at the Royal Hospital School. The Hospital does no fund-raising and its outputs are met entirely from its investments including the Greenwich Estate.

Greenwich Hospital owns a large proportion of Greenwich Town Centre, including the Island Site. The Island site is the name used for the market area and further retail, residential, public houses, leisure properties and commercial properties in an area bounded by College Approach, Greenwich Church Street, King William Walk and Nelson Road, including the market space and Turnpin Lane

The Hospital's criteria for the regeneration of Greenwich market are that any improvements to the Hospital's properties in Greenwich town centre will need to:

- Retain the diversity of shops and stalls.
- Be architecturally, physically and financially viable.
- Be capable of standing the "test of time."
- Be mindful of Greenwich's status as a World Heritage Site and as a Maritime Heritage Site.
- Complement Greenwich's unique position as a tourist and retail destination.