REPORT ON ENDERBY GROUP/ THE GASHOLDER ETC.

ENDERBY HOUSE

The Enderby Group was set up to lobby for the renovation of Enderby House, which was then derelict, and hopefully to get some use for it which would include the telecoms heritage of the site and provide some community facilities. The house was renovated externally as a condition of the planning consent – monitored by Historic England and the Council’s Conservation Officer. Barratts, who have developed the housing on the site, have never been enthusiasts for community liaison – with constant staff changes not helpful.

Currently Enderby House is with Youngs for conversion to a pub/ restaurant. People will be aware that they were granted a licence earlier this year – with strong voices from Enderby Wharf residents about possible noise and disturbance. Since then nothing has happened with Youngs saying nothing except that there are continuing problems with the conversion of the building around environmental issues. If and when there is an announcement – well, expect anything!!

Lay Lines – another requirement of the planning consent was an art work. One of our members has worked closely with the artist, Bobby Lloyd, on an ensemble which is based on the cross sections of important cables made on the site. We hope to have an event for the ‘opening’ of this later this year. The piece is fitted with QR tags for electronic information and we have been lobbying to extend this system around the Peninsula – and indeed elsewhere – for some time, and hopefully things are moving forward on this. There is also an issue of integrating this art work with others along the riverside –Knight Dragon are promoting theirs through the NOW Gallery – but that stops at their border.

The Enderby Jetty – we are still liaising with Alcatel on the jetty and the preserved cable gear –although this will have to fall in behind Enderby House. People will be aware of some of the ideas on the other side of the Peninsula with the garden project on The Jetty which has had help from a sympathetic developer and is sorting out issues with the PLA. I

GASHOLDER

This is also not good news. We have always known that the gas distribution networks ae under orders from Ofgem to demolish all holders except those listed. (We have recently learnt that the unlisted Bethnal Green holder, with a sympathetic developer is likely to be kept). There have been several applications for listing the East Greenwich holder – which is of very high quality and interest. It was subsequently given immunity from listing by the DCMS . The proximity of the Silvertown tunnel is another issue and this may involve the tank of the holder which was demolished in 1985, and there are other complications. We are also wondering what is going to be done with the spoil from the tunnel while it is being built. We have had many discussions with Southern Gas Networks staff and Councillors and Council officers. SGN are commissioning an art work and a book and this is in process. They are also happy to preserve parts of the structure (although we hear that such preserved parts of two North London holders have been ‘inadvertently sold’). Demolition has already started with a dewatering process. We have been on site with photographers and a drone and hope to go again in a couple of months time. Anyone interested let me know – you will need site boots!

OTHER THINGS

We are now also involved with the developer at Morden Wharf – one of our members is advising the developer on the history of the site and we hope to be able to report on this soon.

Away from the Peninsula we are also involved with the Siemens site and the developer there.

A number of us attended the first meeting of a London industrial history liaison network set up as part of a national network.

We are also aware of moves at Trinity Buoy Wharf – on the other side of the river – and the historic ship collection which they are curating. This will also involve the cross river ferry service

Finally – we have between us now produced a number of books and web pages on the history of the area. We need to thank Bill Burns who runs the Atlantic Cable web site from New York and the many initiatives which he has helped in. Bill visited England a couple of weeks ago and we were happy to invite him to a party with an enormous Enderby Group cake.

Mary Mills