



THE ENDERBY GROUP

The following is a brief synopsis of the Enderby Group's position on the future of Enderby House and associated open space. We would be happy, if asked, to follow this with a detailed report.

The Enderby Group is concerned to see that the overwhelmingly important role in the development of international electronic communication is reflected in any future use of Enderby House.

This is an extraordinary site with an extraordinary past. We should be mindful of that in planning its future

Thus:

Any development should increase international interest in the site and thus enhance the reputation of both the developer and the local authority.

The surroundings - the design and use of the area surrounding the house, the riverside and the jetties- should relate to the overall context

Riverside path there needs to be consideration and provision for both local resident groups and walkers/cyclists on the riverside path.

The site should provide an attraction for visitors and any development of the house and surrounding area should be done with this in mind. It needs something extraordinary.

The Group is asking

that we be put in touch with both the architect's practice involved and the proposed pub chain, with remit to advise and work with them on any historical input.

that consideration is given to wider community and visitor needs.

This should include:

An area of the house set aside for an interpretation of the history of the area:

The development of international communications here through cable manufacture and cable laying, including the first Atlantic Cable and the associated ancillary industries - specialists alloys, plastics etc.

Antarctic exploration and the founding of the Royal Geographic Society

Some other aspects of the site and those surrounding it – explosives, shipbuilding, Bessemer steel, linoleum etc.

Any further information which might be revealed by archaeologists in respect to sites here pre-1800

The interior of the house should be carefully refurbished. In particular work on The Octagon Room, site of early meetings of the Geographical Society, and also The Royal Society should be undertaken with particular respect.

A scheme developed to actively curate and interpret any display:

Any interpretation/display needs to be managed and a means of doing this sustainably needs to be developed

The historical background links closely to the development of modern electronic media and this should be a key means of interpretation and emphasis

A programme should be arranged which attracts, involves and educates visitors, in particular young people.

Any such programme should link to any skills centre included in or near the site.

That the public area between the house, the river and the jetties be developed together with the future use of Enderby House:

The Enderby Group has worked up a suggested scheme which we are happy to share

That any future scheme involves the two jetties – with particular reference to the preserved artefacts and the need for an imaginative use for them

That care should be taken in naming the public and residential areas to reflect the contribution of individuals to international telecommunications.

That due regard is given to local residents and to walkers on the riverside path

Residents:

There is now a growing population in local new builds and no community provision has been allowed for them – in regard to meeting rooms, space for education, etc.

New residents should be made aware of the history of the area – something of which they could be proud

It should be kept in mind that residents would want a quiet and private environment and any pub use should be regulated

There are likely to be issues around parking

Riverside walk:

The riverside path is heavily used by walkers, cyclists and many organised groups and this will increase.

The Enderby Group has undertaken footfall surveys here and is happy to share results.

Walkers - Toilets and an informal food and drink menu available all day are important for long distance walkers.

Cyclists – would need some facilities for parking bikes, etc.

Organised groups of walkers. The development of a historical display and programme should provide a stopping place and venue for the many organised groups of walkers – in fact should be marketed as such.

Riverboats and visitors. We are particularly interested in the installation of a new stopping place for the riverboat service and the possible development and marketing of the area for visitors arriving by this means

Liner terminal:

We are not discussing here issues around the proposed cruise liner terminal – but clearly any future display and associated programme would need to involve them in due course

This is clearly another source of visitors and any development needs to take their needs into account.

In an ideal world a team would be set up to develop Enderby House and the surrounding area with reference to its history and how this could be exploited to the economic benefit of the area and Greenwich as a whole.

Peter Luck, B.Arch., DipUD., RIBA , Chair

Dr Mary Mills, Secretary

And with contributions from many other members