

Cliftonville DPD – Press Releases

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Preferred Options Paper to Cabinet News Release	March 20 2008
Cleaning Up in Cliftonville West	October 08 2007
Draft Issues and Options News Release	August 30 th 2007

Date: Tuesday, June 09, 2009
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NEWS RELEASE

CLIFTONVILLE PLANNING POLICY IN FINAL STAGES

A new planning policy document for Cliftonville West has been published, following extensive consultation with local people.

The council has listened to comments made during formal and informal consultations and now believes it has a planning policy document, which addresses issues in the Cliftonville West Renewal Area that can be dealt with by planning policy.

The document contains a number of policies, including:

- Restrictions on one bedroom flats and Houses in Multiple Occupation, a policy which was first adopted in 2006
- Retaining existing family housing in the area and requiring the provision of family homes in new developments and resisting more flats in the area.
- Support for proposals to upgrade existing tourist accommodation or the provision of new tourist accommodation.

Before the document is submitted to the Secretary of State for examination., the council needs people's views on whether or not the document has been prepared in line with the correct planning procedures and if the policies in the document are realistic and achievable.

Cllr. Roger Latchford, Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Economic Development, said: "It is good to see this planning document for Cliftonville reach this stage in the planning policy process, after much consultation and discussions with residents. Hopefully the document will go smoothly through the examination process and we can start to use the planning policies to improve the area."

The document is available electronically at <http://consult.thanet.gov.uk> where comments can be submitted online, or a comments form can be printed off. This uses the Council's new consultation software which will ask you to register, if you haven't already done so. You will only need to do this once and will then be able to participate in all future planning consultations using this site.

Alternatively, copies of the document and comments forms can be found at Thanet's Gateway Plus in Margate, St Paul's Community Centre in Cliftonville, and Cliftonville Library.

Please return forms to Jo Wadey, Strategic Planning, Thanet District Council, PO Box 9, Cecil Street, Margate, Kent, CT9 1XZ. All comments must be received by the Council by 31st July 2009.

Date: Friday, May 29, 2009
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NEWS RELEASE

MAJOR CLEAN-UP OPERATION LAUNCHED IN MARGATE

One of the largest crackdowns in recent years in Thanet is taking place this week (Monday 1 – Friday 5 October) in one part of Margate to tackle anti-social issues and clean up the area.

The action is being led by Thanet District Council and also involves officers from Kent Police, Kent Fire and Rescue and the Border and Immigration Agency. The week will see a team of Council officers taking to the streets of Cliftonville West to tackle a range of problems. Community wardens, benefit fraud officers, planning and housing enforcement teams, parking attendants and the Environmental Action Programme team will all be working to tackle problems identified by the local community and the Cliftonville West Renewal Area officers.

Waste and recycling vehicles from the Council will also be in the area to clear it up, with the cleansing team getting help from volunteers from Pipeline and abandoned vehicles found in the area during the week will be taken away.

As part of the week of action, notices will be issued to land owners to clean up their properties and Fixed Penalty Notices will be handed out to anyone seen dumping rubbish or dropping litter. Letters will also be sent out to owners of empty properties in the area, ahead of possible enforcement action if they fail to bring their properties up to a decent standard and a series of inspections will be carried out of Houses in Multiple Occupation.

Cllr. Shirley Tomlinson, Cabinet Member for Commercial and Environmental Services, said: "We are determined to tackle the problems that are blighting people's lives in Cliftonville West and we are doing that by taking a visible presence out on to streets in the area. Over the next few days, residents will see teams from a range of different Council services tackling the issues that matter most to them, such as problems with dumped rubbish, litter, parking, abandoned cars, the appearance of properties in the area and licensing of Houses in Multiple Occupation. This is all about bringing pressure to bear on the small minority of people in the area who are making life a nightmare for everyone else. We're sending out a clear message that we won't tolerate anti-social behaviour and problem neighbours. Not only are we going to be using all the resources at our disposal to tackle problems up there, but we are also involving other organisations who can help to clean up the area and improve life for local residents."

If the week long operation is a success, then the Council will be looking at carrying out similar operations again in Cliftonville West and may also extend it to other parts of Thanet.

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NEWS RELEASE

MINI OP CLEANS UP IN CLIFTONVILLE

A second mini Operation Clean Sweep has been held in a Cliftonville road, which has uncovered a number of housing problems.

The one day operation, held last week (Thursday 14 May) in Harold Road, involved council officers from the Renewal Area team, waste and recycling, housing and community safety, with help from Kent Police, the UK Border Agency and Kent Fire and Rescue Service.

During their investigations, the group found some flats which had no heating, others which were overcrowded and some illegal occupation.

Renewal Area Officer, Dave Farmer, said: "Our second mini Clean Sweep proved to be exceptionally useful. As well as uncovering a number of problems that we can now deal with, it also provided all the organisations involved with some good intelligence that they can use in the future. It's something that we intend to continue with, with the next mini Clean Sweep due to take place somewhere in the Cliftonville area in the next few weeks."

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NEWS RELEASE

MAJOR EYESORE SET TO BE COMPULSORILY PURCHASED

One of the final remaining eyesore properties in Cliftonville is set to be compulsorily purchased by Thanet District Council, after objections to the purchase were withdrawn.

The Warren Court Hotel at the top end of Dalby Square has been the victim of two serious arson attacks and has been derelict for a number of years. The former hotel was converted into a House in Multiple Occupation and then closed down some years ago.

Since its closure, it has attracted numerous complaints from local residents about a range of issues, including dumped rubbish and squatters.

As part of the Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) process, the council has to give a property owner every opportunity to deal with the issues or sell the property, before resorting to compulsorily purchasing it. The schemes proposed by prospective purchasers would have led to over development of the site, with the council unable to approve them.

Following this, the council applied to the Secretary of State for a CPO, but the owners objected to this, meaning that it had to go to a Public Inquiry.

That objection has now been withdrawn, three days before the Inquiry was due to begin, and the Secretary of State can go ahead and confirm the order. The council is now negotiating with the mortgagees' representatives in London, who are acting on behalf of the freeholders, to try and secure an early change in ownership.

Cllr. Zita Wiltshire, Cabinet Member for Housing, said: "This is excellent news and I'm sure will be warmly welcomed by everyone who knows this property. It's one of the last few major remaining eyesore properties in Thanet that we've been aiming to tackle, having already seen a number of the other major problems brought back into use, thanks to the council's empty property strategy.

"It's a shame that it has taken so long to come to this point, but unfortunately, as part of the Compulsory Purchase Order process, we have to be able to prove that we have given the owner every opportunity to sort the property out. This hasn't happened and our determination to bring this property back into use has now paid off, with the withdrawal of this objection. Had this gone to Public Inquiry, I am confident that the result would've been in our favour, as our officers have worked extremely hard on this case, with a number of different departments cooperating to get the right result. We now look forward to the Secretary of State quickly confirming this order, so that we can move forward with the redevelopment of the site."

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NEWS RELEASE

NEWS RELEASE

Local people can have their say on a new planning document, that deals with a range of issues in the Cliftonville West Renewal Area.

The Preferred Options for the Cliftonville Development Plan Document recommends a number of potential planning policies for the area, following consultation with local people in autumn 2007.

The suggestions in the document include:

- Developing an over-arching policy to deal with major problems in Cliftonville West
- Continuing to implement the existing policy on one-bedroom flats in the area
- Developing a planning policy to refuse planning permission for properties currently in use as, or suitable for, family homes to be turned into flats
- Developing a policy to protect existing properties used, or capable of being used, as hotel accommodation and support development that would extend or upgrade the visitor facilities
- Developing policies to make sure new developments don't unreasonably increase the population of the area and that new developments are of high quality and good design

The document is going to public consultation to see what local people think of the ideas from 18 April until 30 May. You can pick up copies of the document and comments forms at Thanet's Gateway Plus in Margate library, Cliftonville Library and St. Paul's Community Centre in Cliftonville. It is also available online at <http://consult.thanet.gov.uk>

Cllr. Roger Latchford, Cabinet Member for Culture and Economy, said: "Having listened to local people's ideas about how we can further improve the area, we've come up with a series of suggestions about how the planning process can be used to do just that. Now we want to hear from residents and see if we are on the right lines with the proposals we've come up with. It couldn't be easier to have your say. Just pop into one of the venues and pick up copies of the document and a comment form or log on and have your say online."

ENDS

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NEWS RELEASE

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A new planning document, which deals with a range of issues in the Cliftonville West Renewal Area, has been approved to go out to public consultation.

Cabinet were presented with the Development Plan Document, which recommends a series of planning policies for the area, following feedback from local people during the autumn of 2007.

The document sets out a number of preferred options for people to give their views on, including:

- An over-arching policy is developed to deal with major problems in Cliftonville West.
- The existing policy on one-bedroom flats in the area should continue to be implemented.
- A planning policy should be developed to refuse planning permission for properties currently in use as, or suitable for, family homes.
- Develop a policy to protect existing properties used, or capable of being used, as hotel accommodation and support development that would extend or upgrade the visitor facilities.
- Develop a policy, which would apply to all new developments and conversions, that, where there is no alternative, refuse storage facilities must be provided at the front of properties.

Cllr. Roger Latchford, Cabinet Member for Culture and Economy, said: "We've listened closely to those in the Cliftonville West Renewal Area and this plan sets out to deal with the issues that they have raised. The council is determined to create a mixed, balanced and settled community in Cliftonville West and one that families in particular want to live in. We can use the planning process to help achieve that aim, by encouraging the provision and retention of family homes and by providing a good range and choice of properties in the area. We now look forward to hearing people's views on the document that's been put together that aims to achieve these objectives."

ENDS

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NEWS RELEASE

CLEANING UP IN CLIFTONVILLE WEST

A week of action to clean up in Cliftonville West and tackle a range of anti-social issues, led by Thanet District Council, has netted major results.

During the week long crackdown, which ran from Monday 1 until Friday 5 October:

- One House in Multiple Occupation in Northdown Road was closed down on the grounds of it being unsafe.
- More than 100 properties were inspected by officers from the Council's benefit fraud, planning and housing enforcement teams, along with staff from Kent Police, Kent Fire and Rescue and the Border and Immigration Agency. Severe overcrowding was found at a number of properties and action is being considered against other Houses in Multiple Occupation and enquiries will be made into a number of properties to see if they have planning consent for extensions.
- 23 notices were issued, under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act 1949, requiring owners to clear rubbish away from their properties. Some work has already started and if owners fail to take action by the time the notices expire in mid October, the Council will carry out the work in default and bill them.
- 21 parking fines were issued.
- Two abandoned vehicles were taken away.
- Four alleyways were cleaned up by volunteers from Pipeline, working with the Council.

Cllr. Shirley Tomlinson, Cabinet Member for Commercial and Environmental Services, said: "This week has been a great success and we've had an excellent response from local people, who have been really positive about the work that we have been doing in the area over the last week. The officers involved from the Council have worked exceptionally hard and now have a great deal of information to work through. Although a great deal of action has already been taken on the ground, last week was only the start of this operation. Now our officers will be looking at evidence and seeing what further action may be needed."

She added: "In some cases, it's now up to property owners to play their part and get their buildings and land cleaned up. We have already shown during this week that we are not afraid to send our officers in to do this work, but if we have to go down that route, we will be charging owners and the cost could easily run into hundreds – or thousands – of pounds. Enough is enough. We will not let people ruin this area for others and if they continue to do so, we will take action against them."

ENDS

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NEWS RELEASE

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Residents in Cliftonville West are being asked for their views on a new Development Plan that's being put together to tackle a range of issues in the area.

It comes after Thanet District Council adopted a policy in December 2006, which restricted the further development of one bedroom flats in the future in the Cliftonville West Renewal Area. Before the planning guidance was adopted, consultation was held with local residents, landlords, letting agents, businesses and Ward Councillors in the area and during this consultation, a number of wider issues were identified by people.

The key issues which came up were the size of flats in the area, extensions to hotels, parking problems and general design principles. Now a new Cliftonville West Development Plan is being prepared, which will set out policies to help address these issues.

Local people can have their say on possible solutions to these problems by completing a survey, either online at www.thanet.gov.uk or **where can people pick them up from????** People can also attend a focus group on Monday 10 September at 3pm at the Council offices in Cecil Street, Margate. Places can be reserved by calling 01843 577147/145 or by e-mailing jo.wadey@thanet.gov.uk

Cllr. Roger Latchford, Cabinet Member and Culture and Economy, said: "We want to hear the views of people living in Cliftonville West on how they believe that these problems can best be solved. The Council has listened to the concerns of residents, raised during the last consultation, and we're developing this new plan in response to those concerns. We are determined to improve the quality of life for everyone in the Cliftonville West Renewal Area and one way of doing that is by using the planning process to address some of the problems that residents living there have identified."

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