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MEDIA RELEASE
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BABERGH RAISES CONSTRUCTIVE POINTS OVER BATHSIDE DEVELOPMENT

Babergh District Council's Strategy Committee today agreed to voice its concerns to Tendring District Council over both the short and long term implications to residents of the Shotley Peninsula of the Bathside Bay development proposals. The Committee was responding to Tendring's consultation exercise on the planning application it has received from developers Hutchison Ports.

Whilst not objecting to the application itself, Councillors were concerned with noise, lighting and highway problems, both during and after the construction phase, upon the Shotley Peninsula.

Amongst its requests, the Committee agreed to ask Tendring to ensure that adequate consideration be given to the transportation of freight via rail as opposed to putting extra pressure on the local road system. Secondly, the Committee felt that in order to allow Peninsula residents the chance to benefit from the new employment opportunities, should the development go ahead, the developers be made to make a contribution to an all year round foot ferry from Shotley Gate to Bathside Bay. Thirdly, Babergh's Councillors supported the idea that an independent team of consultants, funded by the developers but answerable to Tendring, be appointed to work with Peninsula residents to identify their preferred list of compensatory economic, social, transport and environmental measures.

Colin Spence, Vice-Chairman of the Strategy Committee, explained "Councillors made a number of highly constructive points regarding the proposed Bathside Bay development. The Committee was keen to ensure that, should the proposed scheme get the go-ahead, disruption to the quality of life of Babergh residents was kept to a minimum and that the Peninsula communities had a chance to benefit from any resulting employment opportunities."

Neil Greig, Babergh's Head of Planning & Economic Development, noted "the Strategy Committee wanted to send out a clear message that any negative effects arising from the development on the Shotley Peninsula should be both minimised during the construction work and fully mitigated and compensated for thereafter." ENDS

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