



**Question Time – Thursday 2nd December 2021 6.00pm – 7.30pm
Forest Community Centre, Whitehill & Bordon**

By Whitehill & Bordon Regeneration Company

Speakers

James Child – Project Lead

Chris Knott – Director

Bruce Collinson – Project Manager

Amy Ellery – Head of Operations Town Centre

Andre James – Retail Investment Manager

30 attendees

Overview

- Asmodee shell of building will be completed Q3 2022
- The Mess Hall will be a Box Park style building focused on dining, bars and entertainment
- The Mess Hall will be the next delivery in the town centre (starting on site in May 22). Façade of the Mess Hall will be retained. The rear of the building will have a new modern addition. Contains offices, gallery, theatre, dining and bars, museum
- Morrisons is targeted to open Easter 2023. It will be a Market Street style store including a new concept 'Market Kitchen' a service for hot food, take out or eating outside in their seating area
- There will be car park spaces dedicated to Morrisons shoppers
- Town Square Christmas Market is on 2nd to 5th December
- Events programme for the community have been well received and continues to grow in 2022
- Care for the environment – green initiatives, tree plantation, solar, water usage, heathland creation and more will be worked on
- Climate change strategy is in place
- We continue to focus on the social value of the project including job creation, and investment in community projects
- VOCA (transport initiative) – delayed due to electric vehicle supply delays. Soft launch for 'VOCA Eat' will be before Christmas with an electronic moped

Questions raised & answers given

Q – What is the construction near to the new homes by Hogmoor Inclosure?

A – Asmodee (board games supplier) will be taking this space with 150 FTE jobs in the town. This will be their UK HQ.

Q – What is happening with Tech Forest? And where are the other sites which deliver one job for every house?

A – Tech Forest has been marketed for industrial use by Homes England. They have shortlisted a buyer for this. The other employment sites in the town we manage are Longmoor Apple Pie Depot, Louisburg North and the new Town Centre.

Longmoor will deliver c. 600 jobs – the site has just been sold to a industrial and logistics developer. We have strong interest in Louisburg North from a number of businesses and we will announce the likely operator early in the New Year.

There will be further town centre jobs. We already have 87 new jobs at the Shed and the leisure centre. Morrisons alone will create 120 jobs.

Q – Will there be multiple new ‘SANGS’ (Suitable area of natural greenspace) as part of the Local Plan?

A – These will be close to BOSC pavilion and north of Louisburg Barracks.

Q – What battery storage devices are you exploring and what size will they be?

A – Batteries are used for both domestic and other commercial uses. Battery storage boosts the efficiency of electrical distribution around the project.

Q – VOCA - how will you manage the supply and demand?

A – It is a shared service, not just a taxi service. It is an on-demand service with various types of vehicles including 8-seater vehicles. You can pre book via the app in advance. We will respond to the service once it is started and collect data and adjust as necessary.

Q – What is Voca Eat and why is it needed?

A – We are supporting Prince Philip Park town centre traders with a food delivery service. We will not charge the rates of other nationwide delivery providers.

Q – When will the brands in the Mess Hall be announced?

A – We are working with independent businesses. Over 50% of lettings are now secured. We hope to have some regional brands too. We will announce traders’ names in June 2022.

Q – At what time do you reach saturation point with cafes, bars and restaurants?

A – We are a town of 16,000 people increasing to 24,000 people over the next 10 years. The town centre will also rely on a wider catchment area (400,000 people we can draw on within a 20-minute drive time).

Q – Will the car parking charges be waived in the evening?

A – We are changing the tariff structure. Parking will be free after 6pm.

Q – Who will run the event space?

A – We work closely with The Phoenix Arts Centre and Theatre to bring performance to the community.

Q – Why are there more eateries and not enough shops?

A – The world has changed; the high street has changed. Retailers are shrinking and peoples shopping has changed. We are focussing, in addition to the restaurants and bars, on ‘convenience retail’.

Q – When will the upstairs of The Shed be completed?

A – We will start on this March 2022 and avoid doing this during trade hours.

Q – What are the timescales for building new homes?

A – Approximately 200 homes per annum are being built in the town. House build will be complete by 2028.

Q – How many new doctors will be in the area?

A – The GP surgery will recruit new doctors to cope with the growth of the town. Existing GP's will relocate to the Health Hub initially, then additional GP's will follow.

Q – When will we be able to see a Health Hub proposal?

A – We are finalising the District Valuation Process which we expect to complete this year. Between January and March 2022 will see the design work done. March 2022 WBRC will hold a consultation to showcase plans.

Q – In 2019 WBRC did a resident satisfaction survey. When will you do another?

A – This survey was commissioned by EHDC. We do not know when the next survey will be conducted.

Q – How will the new facilities be cleaned, maintained and leased?

A – We have contracts in place, and we will extend these. We work with the police to ensure antisocial behaviour is reported and to keep the community safe.

Q – Will the hotel still come?

A – Yes, we are still planning for a hotel to open in the former Sandhurst Block.

Q – What are the plans for the cadets' facilities?

A – We are keen to re-engage with both Cadets organisations to find them new homes.

Q – Where are the football and rugby pitches?

A – BOSC has an adult football pitch and two junior pitches. Oakmoor School have more additional pitches. WBRC are not providing rugby pitches within Prince Philip Park.

Date for next meeting – March 2022 – Date to be confirmed