

July 14<sup>th</sup> 2017

Dear residents,

We know, like us, that many local people will be worried by the rumours that have been circulating recently about plans for regeneration in our community. However, they are rumours and we would like to put forward our position as your local, elected representatives.

Our local community, and Bexley more broadly, is changing and we have two ways of dealing with that change. The *first* way is to step away and let developers ride rough shod over our community; to let irresponsible landlords turn family homes into cramped and exploitative 'homes of multiple occupation'; to let businesses build warehouses that are run by computers and only employ people on insecure zero-hours contracts; to let private developers build unaffordable homes that lay empty as investment properties. Change that local people cannot control, that pushes the next generation out of our community and offers no prospect of a decent living or secure home in the future.

The *second* way is to take the lead and control and manage the change so it works for us all; to keep local families in our community; to ensure that with new homes come new skilled and secure jobs; to make sure those new homes are truly affordable for local people, allowing the next generation to stay in the local area. Change that we can plan for and control, that secures the future of Slade Green, North End and Erith and offers decent homes for local people and the livelihoods and careers we want and need.

We are in Opposition locally but as your elected councillors we choose to plan for the future and control and manage the inevitable change so it works for us and our community, not against it. As your councillors we have been asking questions and making representations to shape the plans that are out for consultation. We will continue to do that over the next few years and decades. These plans are truly transformative. The scale can be worrying and residents have the right to be sceptical because frankly, in the past that change has not worked. That is why it is so important that we work together and constructively so the community's priorities shape our future.

No doubt local residents will have questions and comments but it is important that as we go forward we understand the facts and not be worried by rumours. We would like to speak to and meet you and hear your concerns and try and answer your questions. **We will be at the Old Slade Green Community Centre Car Park, Bridge Road on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> July at 6.30PM.** We hope you can make it. Our contact details are below should you wish to speak to us in the meanwhile.

Yours faithfully,

**Stef Borella**

stef.borella@bexley.gov.uk

**Alan Deadman**

alan.deadman@bexley.gov.uk

**Brenda Langstead**

brenda.langstead@bexley.gov.uk