A New Centre for Bede – Planning Approval Given by Southwark

You will remember that Southwark Council are planning to refurbish the Maydew tower block adjacent to Bede Centre, and to build us a new Bede Centre on the ground floor space around it. Once we move into the new Centre, our existing building will be redeveloped for council housing. It is a very exciting opportunity, and we have worked with Southwark Council’s architects, Haworth Tomkins, to design an excellent building. It’s now a year since Southwark Council’s Cabinet meeting approved the main terms of the lease to be offered to Bede. Obtaining Planning Permission has taken much longer than we expected, but, finally, on February 7, Southwark gave approval. The whole scheme is now with the Greater London Authority for their final approval, which we hope will be granted this March. Once planning consent is obtained the scheme can go out to tender. Southwark are keen to complete the new Bede Centre as quickly as possible so that we can move in and free up our existing building for demolition. Some of the redundant structures around Maydew have already been demolished, and our latest estimate for our move is 2021.

The new Bede Centre will have just over 1,000 sq metres of floor space, compared to the 800 sq metres we currently have in our two buildings, Bede House and Bede Centre. All Bede’s activities – our services and café for people who have a Learning Disability, our Youth Clubs, our Starfish Project providing help for those experiencing Domestic Abuse, and Bede’s Central Administration – will be moved to the new Centre. Bede’s trustees are considering the different options for the future of Bede House (which we own) once we’ve moved.

An artist’s impression of what the new LD entrance and Bede café (centre and left) will look like, with the Starfish entrance and central and Starfish offices (right) on ground and first floor of Maydew tower

You will not be surprised to know that Bede does not have £1.2m in the bank to take on the new Bede Centre, so this is no small challenge! However, we have already received £17,200 in pledges and donations from individual supporters, and these are very influential in helping us approach charitable trusts for significant capital grants. We have a very strong case to make for their support, and I’m pleased to say that our application to London Marathon Charitable Trust for a major capital grant has reached Stage 2 of their assessment process. All donations of £1,000 or more (excluding Gift Aid) will be publicly acknowledged in artwork in the new Bede Centre. For more information, please contact us or visit the New Bede Centre Appeal page on our website http://www.bedehouse.org.uk/new-bede-centre-appeal/

Bede’s services are needed more than ever, and the quality of our work is widely recognised in Southwark and beyond. We hope that this exciting future will inspire those who support us already to help us raise the funds for the new Bede Centre and the annual running costs of our services. Thank you!

We have begun raising the £1.2 million we will need by 2020 to purchase the lease, equip the new Centre and pay the fees and related costs of managing the move. It’s a big sum of money, but the project is exceptional value. It gives us a 125 year lease at peppercorn rent and a new Bede Centre, purpose built to our design and specification. It will be handed over to us fully fitted and ready to move into. In 1970, when we opened our existing Bede Centre, we paid £37,879.52p for our 60 year lease. That was still a big sum of money - nearly 950 times the average national wage which, back then, was just £40 a week.
Congratulations to Starfish DV Team!

Nicole Hooper, and Georgina Collie (who was our Clare College sponsored worker in 2015/16) received the Southwark Police Borough Commander’s Commendation in 2017 for an exceptional piece of casework that brought a violent DV perpetrator to justice. It is very rare for civilians to receive such an honour, so we are especially proud of the team, and of Ahlam who has taught them both so well! The photo shows Nicole receiving her award from The Mayor of Southwark, Cllr Charlie Smith.

Bede Youth Project – Responding to Hunger in the Holidays

Our youth clubs and school holiday programmes are busier than ever. Children and young people aged 8 to 19 make over 100 attendances each week over the school holidays, and our term time evening clubs are very well attended too. Last year the all-party parliamentary group on hunger warned ministers that children who rely on free school meals can go hungry when families cannot afford to feed them during the school holidays. A recent survey of 45 of our regular club members found that 78% were from families relying on social security benefits and 31% had had to use Food Banks. With the support of the London Mayor’s Social Kitchen initiative, we’re providing more lunches as part of our holiday programmes so that local young people can thrive and flourish.

Bede Chosen for the Bishop’s Lent Call

Each year, as part of the Lent season of fasting and alms giving, the Church of England’s Diocese of Southwark collects donations from its parishioners to support a small number of chosen charities to support a small number of chosen charities. We are very honoured that Bede is one of just 10 charities working in and around London, in Zimbabwe and in the Holy Land that have been chosen to benefit from this year’s appeal. The Diocesan website carries short films about all the Lent Call charities, including Bede

https://southwarklentcall.com/

Big Local Works – Employment Project in the Blue

Big Local Works - Big Local South Bermondsey's initiative to stimulate employment and small scale enterprise in the neighbourhood – is now fully up and running. Having successfully seen the new project settled in its premises in the Blue Market, Bede has now handed over its legal responsibilities so the Partnership and Big Local Works can develop further. We look forward to continuing to work together in the future.
Funding our Work in 2018/19

Thanks to our wonderful supporters, some careful management to reduce our biggest costs and some successful negotiations with funders, Bede is likely to end the financial year 2017/18 with just a small deficit. Considering we’ve had to raise over £300,000 to continue our work in 2017/18, this is a great achievement – thank you! We’ll face a similar challenge in 2018/19. Statutory funding continues to reduce so, whilst Bede’s work is highly respected, we are constantly seeking new funders to support what we do. That’s why our Friends of Bede are so important – you are our ambassadors and our supporters who can inspire others to invest in our work. Please continue to talk about Bede and encourage others to support us. Thanks!

Click the “Donate” button on the Home page of our website, www.bedehouse.org and you’ll see all the brilliant sponsored activities. Friends of Bede – businesses, volunteers, participants and staff – are doing to raise the funds we need to continue our work.

London Marathon Runners Kathrylyn Lindsay, (daughter of Bede trustee Paul Lindsay) and John Cummins, (brother in law of Gary who attended our Learning Disabilities service for many years), are taking on this great challenge this year. Please do consider setting up a standing order – small, regular amounts soon build up and help us to plan for the future. Thank you!

Bede’s New Travel Buddy Programme

Our first “Travel Buddy” has been employed with our Learning Disability Project. This new scheme trains people who have a disability themselves to accompany others who have a learning disability on public transport. It’s an exciting example of the type of innovation we are well known for at Bede. We have other Travel Buddy candidates in training and we hope to expand the scheme in 2018. Alas, people don’t come to Bede in sailing boats, but we thought this photo of John enjoying a session with Sailability on Greenland Dock caught the Travel Buddy spirit beautifully!

Millwall’s Changing Communities: Memories of Football and Neighbourhood in South London

The Heritage Lottery Fund have awarded Bede two year’s funding to research the history of Millwall FC supporters from diverse ethnic backgrounds. Ole Jensen, who knows our neighbourhoods very well, is leading the research, supported by a team of volunteer interviewers. The first findings from this Bede project featured in an exhibition at Southwark Local History Library in February and these will appear on our website shortly. A play and a documentary film are planned for the next stage of the project which runs to December 2018.

Bede’s New You Tube Channel

Our dedicated You Tube Channel is now live! To access it, go to our website www.bedehouse.org and then click the button on the Home page with the You Tube logo on it. There you will find a collection of short films that feature different aspects of “life at Bede”

Bede’s 80th Anniversary this Year

Southwark News columnist Michael Holland sent us this amazing photo from his personal collection that shows Southwark Park Road in Edwardian times. Bede House is seen in the foreground on the left, long before it was converted in 1938 from a bakery to become the new Settlement. The factory building beyond it is Daintree’s Dyeing and Cleaning Works, which was demolished in the 1920s/30s to make way for the flats that are there to this day.

Friend of Bede Kevin Ireland has published a book of photos from Bede’s archive entitled “Bede House Association- The First 75 Years”. Copies can be ordered from on-line publishers Blurb www.blurb.com.

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Dates for Your 2018 Diary

Bede Learning Disabilities Project Summer Fete: Wednesday June 27, 11am to 2pm at Bede Centre, Abbeyfield Road, SE16

Lambeth Palace Gardens Open Day for Bede: Friday August 3, 12 noon to 3pm (admission £5). We have the rare honour of being invited back for a second year, so do join us and tell your friends! More details coming soon.

Exhibition of photos from the Bede archive at Deli Felice café, Albion Street SE16, September 29 to December 1

Bede AGM: Thursday November 8, 6.00pm

Clare College Choir, Advent Concert for Bede: Monday December 17, 7.30pm at St Mary's Church, Rotherhithe

Raise funds for Bede for free: shopping on-line through Give as You Live

If you buy on line you can help Bede at the same time, at no extra cost to you. All the big on-line firms are signed up, and you can raise funds for Bede when you order your groceries on-line, or book travel and holidays. Over £1,330 has been raised this way already – it’s very easy, so do help us raise even more.

www.giveasyoulive.com/join/bedehouseassociation

Thanks to Recent Donors!

Three year funding of £23,000 a year from the Charles Hayward Foundation has given a great boost to our Starfish Domestic Violence Project. Thanks also to Alan and Babette Sainsbury, Amicable Society, The Capital Group, Children in Need, Charterhouse in Southwark, the Coop, Donald Forrester Trust, First (formerly First Protocol), Gowling WLG, Grosvenor, Henry Smith Charity, Heritage Lottery Fund; John Laing, Newcomen Collett Foundation, North Southwark Environment Trust, Oley Trust (and the Clare Bermondsey Trust, Clare College, Cambridge), Winckworth Sherwood, Periscopix, St Olave’s and St Saviour’s Schools Foundation, Stella Coffee and Tea, Wakefield & Tetley, Your Turn Initiative and many more. Despite further cuts to their budget, Southwark Council have continued to support Bede as best they can – our special thanks to all our colleagues there.

Bede’s Purpose – Believing in Community.

At Bede, we believe strong, confident communities enable people to flourish. That’s why, since 1938, we’ve been working from our Bermondsey and Rotherhithe base in Southwark to support local people in creating better lives for themselves, their families and their communities. To do this, we run four key services: Bede’s Learning Disabilities Programmes, Bede Youth Project, the Bede Starfish Domestic Violence Project and Community Engagement through various projects, volunteer opportunities and activities. Each aims to bring people of different backgrounds, skills and experiences together to build long-term supportive relationships that help to create new opportunities for those involved. These include young people from families on low incomes, adults with learning disabilities, survivors of domestic abuse, elderly and unemployed people. With government statistics showing that some of our local neighbourhoods are among the 10% most deprived in the country, and 38% of children are growing up in poverty, we work hard to ensure as many people as possible get the help they need. Together, our different services and activities:

- Alleviate poverty and increase employment opportunities
- Reduce isolation and help people find fresh purpose in life
- Improve health and wellbeing
- Care for our environment

Bede staff support volunteers who have a learning disability to run the Bede café.

Each year, 1,000 people directly benefit from our services and facilities, with a further 1,000 people, such as family, carers or participants in events organised with Bede’s help, benefitting indirectly. Bede’s facilities are used nearly every day of the year, with an estimated 500 visits a week for activities and meetings. Over 70 people are involved in voluntary work through Bede. Many thanks for supporting us!

Nick Dunne, Director nickdunne@bedehouse.org