

Rochester Riverside Newsletter

This quarterly newsletter brings you up-to-date with progress on the flagship regeneration site – Rochester Riverside.



A fantastic future for Rochester Riverside

One of the first actions of the newly appointed Housing Minister Caroline Flint was a visit to Rochester Riverside.

She said it was wonderful news that the site's new river walk – due to open in the spring – would give public access to the riverfront for the first time in

more than 100 years.

A video of the minister's visit can be seen on www.medwayrenaissance.com

She toured the site – now ready for development – and met leading figures behind the flagship project, including teams from Medway Council and the South East England Development Agency (SEEDA).

The minister viewed images of the future from the developers appointed to build the first phase of the project (see centre pages). She told press and TV reporters that the site had a fantastic future.

She was shown the giant blue shipping crane that has been restored and reassembled to mark the site's industrial past.



■ Housing Minister Caroline Flint and (to her left) Cllr Jane Chitty, Medway Council Portfolio Holder for Strategic Development and Economic Growth.

ROCHESTER RIVERSIDE EYE

You get to play the best game of I spy at the Guildhall Museum, with two interactive CCTV cameras pointing at old and new Rochester.

The cameras, located in the Conservancy Building, are controlled via a user-friendly console. It allows visitors to navigate easily across the landscape taking in views of Rochester Cathedral, castle and bridge as well as Rochester Riverside. Spanning the city landscape,

the cameras relay live images on to a 50inch plasma screen. The gallery also features audio commentary giving an introduction to the aims and aspirations of the riverside development.

Medway Council's Portfolio Holder for Community Services Cllr Howard Doe said: "Rochester has the most amazing history and what better way to see some of the famous skyline than with these new interactive cameras. From Rochester Cathedral to the castle and of course, Rochester Bridge – you get a real bird's eye view of the area. It's a splendid idea

and one which I am sure will interest visitors to the Guildhall Musuem."



Contact information

If you have any queries about Rochester Riverside, please use the following contacts during normal office hours:

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More information is available at www.medway.gov.uk/medwayrenaissance or www.medwayrenaissance.com

Please note: Castle View Business Centre and Acorn Shipyard are open for business as usual throughout these works

Leading developer selected for £100m investment on Rochester Riverside

Crest Nicholson PLC, with green living specialists BioRegional Quintain Ltd, has been selected as developer for the first 600 homes on Rochester Riverside.

It was chosen from a shortlist of four developers by landowners and project partners Medway Council and SEEDA. This followed a public exhibition of developers' plans at Rochester's Corn Exchange.

Crest plans 600 high quality homes on the seven-hectare site, as well as parks, shops, offices and cafes, to provide a sustainable mixed-use community with strong links to the historic centre of Rochester.



■ Above: Local people view developers' proposals at Rochester's Corn Exchange

■ Below: Phase-one, Rochester Riverside.
Picture courtesy of Crest Nicholson



The buildings will be of the highest sustainability standards including some at the government's highest rating. Crest is working with the project partners to agree detailed design during 2008, with construction starting in 2009. Affordable housing, a quarter of the total, will be provided and managed by registered social housing landlord The Hyde Group.

Plans for Rochester Riverside approved by Medway Council include:

- up to 2,000 new homes of the highest standard ranging from starter homes to executive properties;
- shops, cafes, bars;
- offices;
- hotels;
- community facilities, including a new primary school and health centre;
- a new river walk with cycle path;
- new parks and play equipment.

Leader of Medway Council Cllr Rodney Chambers said: "Crest was one of four shortlisted developers which all submitted excellent bids. It is the clearest possible evidence of massive private sector confidence in Medway's regeneration programme and our ambition to become the thriving new city of the Thames Gateway."

Rochester Riverside Project Manager Sarah Beck, said: "Local residents are very keen to see progress at Rochester Riverside. We will now be working with Crest Nicholson to ensure that the development of Rochester Riverside not only complements the historic centre of Rochester, but also provides real opportunities for local residents to benefit from new homes and open spaces as well as employment and leisure opportunities."

■ Below: Ready for development:
Rochester Riverside from the air

