

Community Training and Resource Centre

STORY SO FAR

SPRING 2006 ISSUE 3

Since our last newsletter, here at BMECP we have been working extremely hard on your behalf and it is with pleasure that I can now inform you that on the 20th of February 2006 we have signed a 160 years Lease for the purchase of the core and shell of the lower ground and ground floor premises within the New England Quarter development near Brighton Station and the new Sainsbury's.

I am sure you would join with me in congratulating ourselves on this achievement on behalf of our communities.

However and there is always a but in our 'STORY SO FAR' the next challenge of many yet to come is finding the additional money to fund the fit out cost of the premises. To that purpose we already had a fruitful meeting with our funders and are working hard to finalise the Business Plan by the 31st March.

The Community Training and Resource Centre will provide the facilities that are needed to be more effective in delivering services and activities to beneficiaries. However, at least 66% of the available floor space will be given over to activities that support job-related training and enterprise development. At this stage, it is envisaged that the fitted-out building will include the following facilities:

- Flexible rooms that will be available for training, workshops, seminars, conferences and community use
- ICT training space
- Flexible office space, including hot desking facilities
- Business start up facilities
- Reception and café hub
- Training resource library
- Crèche
- Outreach services.

It is proposed that the Training and Resource Centre will be operational by February 2007. For this to be accomplished a two phase process will need to be undertaken concurrently, and the key events and milestones are listed below.

DEVELOPMENT OF THE BMECP COMMUNITY TRAINING AND RESOURCE CENTRE: PHASE 1: SITE DEVELOPMENT

DATE FOR ACHIEVEMENT DESCRIPTION AGENCY RESPONSIBLE

April 2005 Acceptance of the SRB6 application and agreement of funding SEEDA

April – July 2005 Completion of agreement BMECP, Developers

July 2005 Construction starts on site Developer
February 2006 First staged payment. Second and last payment upon satisfactory completion of the build City Council
November 2006 Construction complete, hand over of core & shell to BMECP Developer
PHASE 2: FITTING OUT
January 2006 Final plans for internal design and services completed; all consents secured. BMECP, Architects
February 2006 Lease signed and sealed BMECP/QED/SSL
November 2006 Fit out work begins on site Contractor
February 2007 Completion of work Contractor

Which brings me to point out to your attention the leaflet enclosed relating to an important meeting on TUESDAY 21ST MARCH FROM 5:30PM TO 9:30 PM where you will have another chance to inform the activities and services that will operate from the Centre.

Overall, it is aimed that the activities and services delivered from the Community Training and Resource Centre will enable BME people and Refugees and asylum seekers groups and communities to be more socially included and active members of the wider Brighton and Hove community in the long term.