



The future of Port Ramsgate: RRA survey results and new developments

(RRA newsletter 1, 3rd February 2021)

Welcome to the Ramsgate Regeneration Alliance (RRA) newsletter. Last year you responded to our survey about the future of Port Ramsgate. We promised to reply with the results.

Thank you for your input. The survey has made an important contribution to our ongoing efforts to help build a successful future for Port Ramsgate. We learned that local public opinion is in favour of a mixed Maritime Village development of Port Ramsgate, with a strong desire to honour our historical and maritime heritage, whilst also attracting good new jobs to the area. One thing is for sure, local opinion is largely opposed to heavy industry on the port.

We have published our first report which has been well received by all accounts. It contains the results of the survey. More of that below.

When it comes to stemming the losses incurred by the port, that was round one. The consultation process is being extended by Thanet District Council (TDC) and it is very important that we keep up the pressure to get a good outcome. You know how it is; local decision making about Ramsgate is not always the best.

The most important current issue is how TDC handles further discussions towards the development of a master plan. Their statement about it on the TDC website looks encouraging at first sight. But we are wary of the outcome.

The key points are that council leader Rick Everitt is planning to absorb issues regarding the Port into a wider project covering the whole of Ramsgate and founded on previous experience in Margate (The Margate Town Deal) and our status as a Heritage Action Zone. We are concerned to ensure that the process does not lose focus and momentum and that we stay involved and listened to.

In any event we think that to be effective the process should continue to be:

Transparent, so that the views of all stakeholders are properly considered and reported

Inclusive, so that there is a sufficiently wide definition of 'stakeholder'

Relevant, ensuring that operational plans are made that stop the Port losing money

Authoritative, so that the final report is published for review in open council for discussion by councillors and the public.

TDC referred again to the plans for the port in their announcement (22nd January) of £2.7m of new government money for the regeneration of Ramsgate. We have been told by a senior representative of TDC to expect more detailed statements soon.

As events unfold we will keep you posted and we plan to ask your opinion again as key issues emerge. Those opinions will inform our further action. That will in turn get reported back to you both through our website and more newsletters.

You can view the full survey results in our first response to TDC by going to our new website at www.ramsgate-regen.net and clicking "Here is the RRA initial response". All your comments are there to be seen. You can also see more about TDC's statements on next steps, referred to above, in the OUR NEWS section on the website.

We hope you have found this RRA newsletter useful. If you like it then tell your friends to get it too. There is an application form on the website.