



Press Release

25th February 2019
Farthingloe & Western Heights

In May 2012, China Gateway International first submitted plans to transform some derelict land at Farthingloe into some much-needed homes and to make a sizeable contribution to improving the heritage offer at Western Heights. Dover District Council Planning Department requested some changes. The result was that the revised plans submitted in December 2014 not only included outline planning permission for around 600 homes, a 130-bedroom hotel, a conference centre and retirement village but also detailed designs for a Museum and Visitor Centre at Drop Redoubt, landscaping and infrastructure improvements to make the whole area uniformly attractive to residents and visitors.

The land at Farthingloe is familiar to locals as an area of outstanding natural spoil from the Channel Tunnel workings and is remembered as the parking place for multiple temporary accommodation units when the High Speed rail link was constructed.

A shortage of suitable residential accommodation deters inward investors as well as increasing the selling price of first homes for workers and families. With on-line retail shopping offering an ever-increasing threat to our traditional high streets, making Dover more attractive to tourists could play a vital role in stimulating employment and boosting revenue for our local businesses.

Supported by Dover's MP and the Dover District Council, the development has been frustrated by a few critics who venerate the land at Farthingloe as if it were the last refuge of the Black Rhino.

There is every hope that the development will finally receive permission to begin later this year. It is a matter of regret that for the last seven years so many families have been deprived of a home, so many shops have lost the customers they could have served and so many of our elderly relatives have not yet had access to a modern care home with state-of-the-art facilities and support services.

Chamber of Commerce Chief Executive David Foley said: "If we are serious about stopping the exodus of East Kent school leavers and graduates to London and other parts of the country, we should support the opportunities, accommodation and jobs that the CGI development offers."

347 words + headlines

Information

Dover District Chamber of Commerce was established in 1850 and provides professional business support to the private and voluntary sector. In liaison with its sister body, Thanet & East Kent Chamber, the Dover District Chamber of Commerce operates the East Kent Business Advice Clinic which gives commercial guidance to companies of all sizes trading in East Kent.

Contact

Emails: Membership & Marketing: info@doverchamber.co.uk
Events: admin@doverchamber.co.uk
General Enquiries: enquiries@doverchamber.co.uk
Chief Executive: davidfoley@doverchamber.co.uk
Tels: 01304 892484
01843 609289
Mob: 07967 284850
Website: www.doverchamber.co.uk

External Websites

BBC <https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/m0002x9j/south-east-today-weekend-news-23022019>
Kent Live <https://www.kentlive.news/news/kent-news/hundreds-homes-could-still-built-1643662>
CGI <http://www.cgipc.com/news.php>