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Photography: Esther Sabetpour.

Guitars Galore!

More London played host to a record number of events and activities over the summer months, including the Gibson Guitartown exhibition, which was enjoyed by people of all ages. The giant fibre-glass guitars are now being auctioned to raise money for three charities: The Prince's Trust, The Nordoff-Robbins Music Therapy and Teenage Cancer Trust.

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More investment in the local area

History of the site and its development

More London was once home to thriving wharves that for centuries before the building of the docks were effectively the Port of London.

Located within an area known as the Pool of London, the More London site at one time was part of Hay's Wharf, which extended from London Bridge to Tower Bridge. With its large array of food products e.g. spices, tea, coffee and cocoa both traded and stored along the Thames, the area also became known as London's Larder.

The Thames continued to be a busy working river until the late 1960's, with cranes and warehouses dominating the river for miles

east of London Bridge. However, with the introduction of containerisation the need for large numbers of dock workers declined, resulting in the closure of docks and wharves.

The More London site's current planning history dates back to the early 1980s, when in 1983 approval was given for a primarily commercial scheme. However, the site remained hoarded until permission for what is now More London was granted to More London Development in 1999.



Section 106 (S106): Investing in the local neighbourhood



Legend

- Public Realm Projects
- Sports/ Play Projects
- Railway Arch Projects
- Open Space Projects
- Public Event and Performance Space
- More London Open Space
- Unicorn Theatre
- Historic & Heritage Building Refurbishments
- Cycle Parking Stands
- ▲ Coach Drop-off
- Artwork
- ▲ Public Toilets
- Wayfinding

A Section 106 agreement, also known as 'planning gain', is a legally binding contract entered into by a Local Authority (responsible for the granting of planning permission) and a developer. Its purpose is to reduce the impact of the proposed development, and to provide benefits to the local community. For more information on S106 go to the website: Southwark.gov.uk/s106.

The map opposite shows the wide ranging initiatives that have been completed as part of the More London Section 106 agreement. In addition to providing the funding, More London has additionally provided benefit in-kind by project managing a number of these projects at no cost.

The S106 agreement initiated and formed the backbone to the Communities Investment Programme, and has attracted financial and in-kind contributions from the former Pool of London Partnership and Southwark Council.

More transformation of the local neighbourhood

The Communities Investment Programme has played a large part in transforming the area around More London. Projects have included the lighting and cleaning of bridges and tunnels, new riverside lighting, the upgrading of Tooley Street, the refurbishment of parks, the creation of play areas (home zone and skateboarding) and estate improvements with the development of a new piazza.

Roper Lane



A new public piazza with cherry trees illuminated by 32 coloured lights.



Refurbishment of the adjacent railway viaduct which has not only been cleaned, painted and given new lighting, but also has redesigned floorspace to create wider footways and a new cycle route.



Tooley Street



Highway works have provided a new two way traffic system that gives a calmer feel to this busy road. New paving has also upgraded the street.



St Olave's Estate



A new homezone provides safe children's play space, and incorporates a pocket park. Greening and planting have uplifted the pocket park and front gardens of the housing estate buildings.



Pocket Parks



Tanner Street Park was completely redesigned in 2003 to create a more open and accessible space with a children's play area, seating and lighting, trees and other planting, and refurbished tennis courts. The park also has an attractive public square, linking it to Bermondsey Street.



The refurbishment of St John's Churchyard has provided new play equipment, better lighting, new fencing and gates. It also reflects the history of the Churchyard and Southwark's print industry, using concepts developed by pupils from the nearby Tower Bridge Primary School. These include a word search and jig saw, as well a series of stories told on 'pavement' slabs made of Caithness flagstone, York sandstone and cast concrete, and demonstrating different print fonts used through the ages.



More S106

Opening of Whites Grounds Skate Park



The new Skate Park has transformed an old railway arch and made a safer neighbourhood.

The opening ceremony for the award-winning Whites Grounds Skate Park took place in April this year. It was opened by the Leader of the Council, Councillor Nick Stanton, and local MP Simon Hughes. Cllr Stanton who has long advocated the provision of additional youth facilities in the area said "this is an example of how Southwark Council can creatively use existing spaces to create new open space and sports facilities in a Borough which is undergoing widespread change".

Supported by funding from More London Development (through S106) and the Pool of London Partnership, the project shows how a run-down railway arch can be transformed into an exciting purpose-built skate park aimed at 11-16 year olds. It is one of only two such parks in Southwark, and is being run by

Southwark Council's Play Service, and was designed by the local architects, Dive, working together with local communities.

Southwark Project Manager Dan Taylor noted that "despite working closely with the local community and youth clubs, we never expected the volume of excited young skaters who stayed all day on Saturday, and who could be the next generation of skate professionals in London – if only it was an Olympic sport!".

Local resident, Mustapha Derdeb, who lives in the Whites Grounds Estate commented: "this new skate park is fantastic – it has transformed a dirty old arch which no one wanted to walk through into a useful playspace which keeps kids busy, I only wish my grown up kids could have used it".

"Grand Opening" of Potters Fields Park



Photograph: James O'Jenkins.

The opening celebrations ranged from a unique fanfare by The Orkestra de Sol, a breathtaking aerial performance to a maze, specially constructed for the occasion.

The new Potters Fields Park celebrated its official opening in May with a three-day spectacular event following a £3m regeneration programme funded by More London, the Pool of London Partnership and Southwark Council.

The park has been transformed, and provides something for everyone. Its riverside location gives wonderful views of the Thames, which can be enjoyed from the vantage point of a 22 metre granite bench, seating up to 50 people. The bench is reminiscent of the park's original history as the point at which Delftware pottery was unloaded from boats from the Netherlands, with the distinctive Delftware pattern engraved in the stone.

Members of the local community are involved in the running of the park through their involvement on the Potters Fields Park Management Trust. This is a not-for-profit company in which local people work alongside representatives from Southwark Council, More London and the GLA.

The Trust will be funded by a small number of revenue-generating events. There will also be selected public events, such as Tosca, which was screened live from the Royal Opera House in July.

More Community

Dates for the diary:

Sing and celebrate – riverside carols

On Friday 14th December at 6pm enjoy the festivities and sing-a-long to your favourite Christmas songs and carols in The Scoop at More London. Led by The Steam Industry Singers it promises to be a toe-tapping occasion. Open to all – free. The event is supported by the law firm LG.

Sport in the 21st Century

8th November – 25th January 2008, More London Riverside, SE1 2DB

Dramatic action, giant personalities, towering deals, broken boundaries, big business and cult following: this is sport in the 21st century. An outdoor exhibition of 200 dramatic images by Reuters photographers will be on display day and night from 8th November until 25th January at More London Riverside.

Free and open to all.

Occupier news

It was announced in the summer that PricewaterhouseCoopers has entered into an agreement with More London for a new headquarters building on the last remaining area to be developed. Construction is underway and it is planned that the building will be complete and ready for fitting-out by 2009.

The serviced office providers Regus, Climate Change Capital and Equality on Human Rights Commission have all recently moved to More London. The award winning Argentinean restaurant, Gaucho Tower Bridge, opened in June and Environ will be moving into 6 More London Place in December.

More London Award for Excellence in Partnership



Towards the end of June URBED received a certificate of Excellence in Partnership award from the Southwark Education Business Alliance with regard to its work, led by Francesca King, on behalf of More London. Francesca has been involved in a public liaison role since 1999 and the role has evolved to meet the different needs of the site and its occupation. In the early days time was spent in informing local residents and businesses (through receptions and the newsletter) on the progress of the site's development, answering enquiries, presenting to visiting groups of students and displaying schools' artwork on the hoarding around the site. In more recent years, as firms have begun to occupy the site, the focus has changed to developing a school's network, facilitating corporate responsibility, while continuing to inform and answer enquiries.

More London occupiers Ernst & Young and Hewitts won awards for long service to the initiative.

Francesca King, who has been involved in a public liaison role since 1999.

Keeping in touch

This newsletter is produced by More London Development to keep local residents and businesses informed about developments on and around the site.

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