

April 2017

Betteshanger Sustainable Parks Newsletter

Message from the Director

Welcome to the first issue of the Betteshanger Sustainable Parks Newsletter.

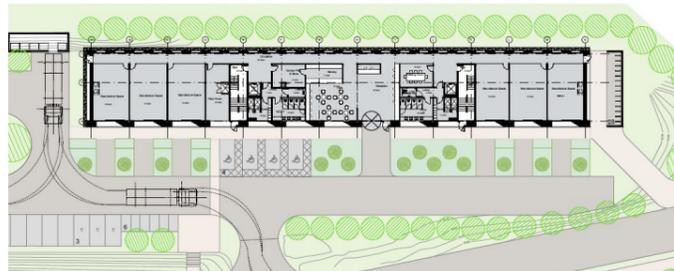
I intend on bringing you a quarterly newsletter to keep you up to date with everything that is happening across the Project.

Richard Morsley
Director, Betteshanger Sustainable Parks

Business Park—Phase I update

Betteshanger Business, located on the site of the former pit head, will become a bespoke green technologies park. It will be home to exemplary low carbon buildings for companies in health and wellbeing, food security, environmental technology, life sciences and green technology.

With a supported programme of work-based learning, apprenticeships and training, Betteshanger will become a unique commercial environment nurturing the growth and development of small and micro businesses.



The first phase 'Health Care Enterprise Incubation Hub' is planned for development in 2018, opening early 2019.

The Hub will develop and incubate small businesses in the preventative health field. An application will be submitted to the European Structural and Investment Fund (ESIF) shortly.

The Hub is the first phase of Betteshanger Business and will link into the wider development of the site for more advanced companies and next generation SMEs.



**Betteshanger
Park**

New peaks on the horizon



Locals and regular visitors to the Park will have noticed an impressive structure appear on the skyline this month.

These beautiful giant tipi's will provide an all-weather temporary event space and form part of our exciting new festival village for the summer.

They will be joined by an array of local food and drink stalls during busy periods.

The tipi's can be booked for private hire.

It's all about the bounce



It's been no secret that The Beast, the world's largest inflatable obstacle course, is making one of its first UK outings at Betteshanger this May.

Attracting significant press and social media coverage the event, running from 25th – 29th May, will see over 9,000 adults and children bounce their way around the 272m inflatable.

Public tickets are still available for 25th May (Party Night) and 26th May. Corporate sessions are available on 26th May. Book quickly before they sell out.

Join us for an energising summer packed with events and activities



Explore the great outdoors

Family fun

- Cycling
- Walking & running
- Nature & wildlife
- Play area
- Archery
- Fossil hunting
- Geocaching
- Den building
- Forest school
- Obstacle course
- Military-style fitness

Event highlights

- Open Air Cinema Season**
6 May – 16 September
- Family Basecamp**
1st May & 29th – 30th July
- Wild Weekend**
22nd – 23rd July
- Wind Festival**
Sunday 6th August
- Survival**
Sunday 8th October

Come and find us
Betteshanger-park.co.uk
#Betteshanger
 Sandwich Road, Deal



**Betteshanger
Park**



Part of the



Strong growth in visitors

The number of people visiting the Park has been steadily increasing. We are currently showing a 58% increase compared to 2016. We anticipate that the Park will welcome over 120,000 visitors this year.

The ongoing marketing and promotion, increased events and continued focus on providing a quality offer are having a positive impact on visitor numbers.

New Forest School partnership

We have recently joined forces with Kent Wildlife Trust and Really Wild Wooders to provide a Forest School.



From our dedicated Forest School site we offer schools and groups the opportunity to experience nature first hand through a series of fun tasks. This could involve lighting fires (and toasting marshmallows), using tools, building dens and making crafts. It's great for improving creative and independent thinking plus building communication and teamwork skills.

We also now offer Forest School holiday club and themed birthday parties.

In addition we are working with Kent Wildlife Trust to develop a long term management and conservation plan for the Park.



Fundraising goal inching nearer

From the outset the Betteshanger Project has been working towards a fundraising target of £1.8m. We're pleased to report that almost £700,000 has been raised towards that target.

Support has come from all parts of the East Kent community; trusts and foundations, both locally and nationally; and from individuals who have been impressed by the project. Among these are Garfield Weston, John Swire 1989, Foyle Foundation, Richard Oldfield, George Hammond PLC and Crown Products. Applications totalling more than £500,000 are in the pipeline.

The Kent Mining Heritage Foundation is the charity leading the campaign. Chaired by Lady Northbourne, its Development Group is made up of influential members of the Kent community dedicated to the success of the project.

Improvements continue apace

Development of our new grass amphitheatre began in March. The 3-acre event space will have a capacity of 3,000 and will be used for open air theatre, cinema, market days and special events. Work is due for completion this month and the amphitheatre will be ready for use from 2018—allowing essential time for grass to seed and grow.

Site wide ground works are also underway. This includes improvements to the car park, footpath upgrades and landscaping of the banks surrounding the play area. The latter will be seeded which will extend the grass area around the play area, providing additional green space for play outside of the new Visitor Centre.

In addition, the visitor welcome will be improved, to include new footpaths, relocating the building site entrance and refreshing the information boards.

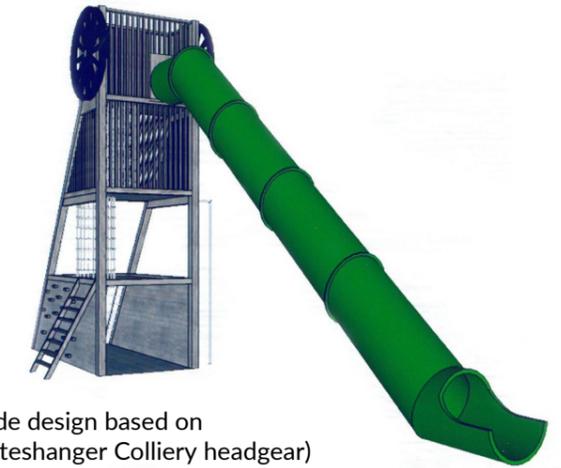
Experts appointed for play area

A mining themed playground has been commissioned as part of the Heritage Lottery Funded Kent Mining Museum.

The play equipment takes its inspiration from the mighty headgears of Betteshanger Colliery and the ground shattering DOSCO roadheader tunneling machine. The new additions to the play area will consist of 3 key pieces of play equipment and 2 smaller play elements, the latter will be based on miner's checks and coal pieces.

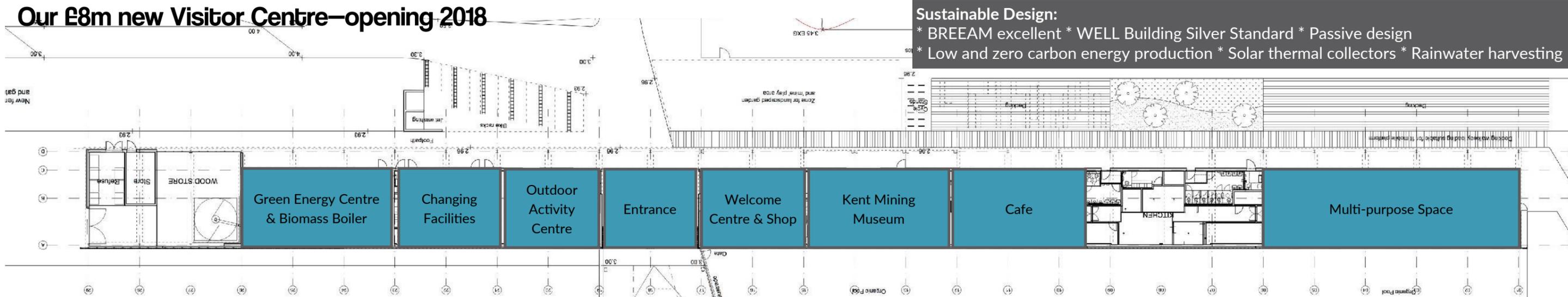
The equipment will sit beside the new Visitor Centre, immediately outside the Kent Mining Museum and existing timber play area.

Flights of Fantasy Creative Play has been appointed to design, build and install the equipment, which will open in 2018.



(Slide design based on Betteshanger Colliery headgear)

Our £8m new Visitor Centre—opening 2018



- Green Energy Centre:** Exploring green energy production and sustainable principles. Making the connection between fossil fuels and new forms of energy. Interpreting the green aspects of the building.
- Outdoor Activity Centre:** Everything you need to explore the outdoors, including bike hire and cycle servicing by trained bike mechanics.
- Entrance:** The impressive 18m wide entrance will feature a ground map of the Kent coalfield. A mining pickaxe will act as an iconic marker for the Kent Mining Museum.
- Welcome Centre and Shop:** The starting point for all visits to Betteshanger. Find out what there is to see and do, forthcoming events and how to get the most from a visit.
- Kent Mining Museum:** Spanning two floors, the museum will be dedicated to preserving and displaying the artefacts and memories of the Kent coalfield.
- Multi-purpose Space:** For conferencing, events and learning. Seated capacity for up to 200 delegates.