

London Borough of Bexley

News Release

For Immediate Release

19 January 2018 / PR 10653

Award winning architects to help transform Erith

Award-winning architects, Ash Sakula, have been appointed to deliver the new design for the Old Walnut Tree Depot site in Erith.

The site is being developed to provide new homes after being vacant for many years. The public areas in and around the site will also be redesigned and improved so that they provide more direct access to the town centre and frame views of the restored Carnegie building. The work will see the removal of the pedestrian subway which will be replaced with a more direct and safer route for people going to and from the town centre to the railway station.

Cllr Linda Bailey, Bexley's Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Growth said: "The development of the Walnut Tree depot site, is part of an ongoing programme of regeneration, aimed at developing Erith into a thriving riverside community. We want to ensure that the design is community-led, and it was clear during the tender process, that Ash Sakula had the experience needed to deliver this."

Ash Sakula have won many prestigious awards including ten RIBA Awards for Architecture. When they have completed the draft design for the Old Walnut Tree depot site, which is expected to be in the next few months, the public will then be asked for their opinion on it at a public consultation event.

Robert Sakula, Founding Partner of Ash Sakula, said: "We are looking forward to testing our proposals for the Walnut Tree Depot site by listening and learning from the people of Erith. Together, we can build something there that helps make Erith a better and more beautiful place."

The Walnut Tree Depot site development is one of a number of initiatives that London Borough of Bexley is leading on in Erith, aimed at re-invigorating the town.

Examples of projects designed by Ash Sakula can be found at www.ashsak.com

Recent work includes:

- The Malings: regenerating a rundown former industrial area of Newcastle, which was Overall Winner in the 2016 Housing Design Awards. It includes 76 homes.
- Tibby's Triangle in Southwold - This has 34 homes including 10 affordable homes,

which are tenure-blind and pepper-potted throughout. They have been built around a new market square at the front of the site and the development also comprises shops and a café. The design won a Housing Design Award in 2008 and 2012 and a What House Gold Award in 2011.

Ash Sakula are currently carrying out innovative housing projects in Hackney Wick, Clapton, Swindon and Totnes.



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