



Gravesham Borough Council



Gravesham is bracing itself for boom time as the extraordinary regeneration of the historic borough accelerates.

Gravesend is rediscovering its riverside heritage.

Stretching from Gravesend on the banks of the Thames to the green-belt of Meopham and Vigo, the area offers a unique blend of modernity and rural splendour.

As a key shipping port through the centuries, Gravesham developed numerous heavy industry sites on the shores of the river.

Regeneration

With much of that industry now gone, these sites, centred in the north west of the borough in Northfleet, Ebbsfleet and Springhead, are being used for economic and community-led regeneration, providing new homes and communities for residents and those wishing to move to Kent.

Around 10,000 additional homes are planned for the area over the next 20 years, complementing the extensive redevelopment of the town centre and built with the borough's rural areas in mind.

Improved transport links

Key to this bright future is the new 140 mph Channel Tunnel rail link at Ebbsfleet, which will make Kings Cross St Pancras mainline station accessible in just 17 minutes, and Paris and Brussels in just over two hours.

The improving links to London and Europe are underpinned locally by the Fastrack transport system joining Dartford, Bluewater and Gravesham.

This is a bus-based transport system which runs on a dedicated road, guaranteeing rapid journey times and delay-free travel.

Combined with the widening of the A2 to four lanes (expected to be completed 2008), and proximity to the M25 and M20, Gravesham will offer a comprehensive local, national and international transport network.

Cultural blend

As a port town Gravesend has always offered visitors a warm welcome, and this philosophy has meant that over the years it has become notably cosmopolitan, closer in profile to a major city than other Kentish neighbours.

With a Sikh population of around 10 per cent, as well as Muslim and Buddhist cultures, Gravesham's streets offer a varied blend of shops, restaurants and events.

This cultural richness is embodied in the construction of the new Sikh temple (Gurdwara), based in design on the Golden Temple of Amritsar.

The Riverside

Gravesend is rediscovering its riverside heritage. Its unique position is enhanced by having the town centre actually on the Thames. And £100 million plans for what is called the Heritage Quarter will see the town turn once again towards the river that has provided its lifeblood through the centuries. ▶

Princess Pocahontas is buried in St. George's Church, Gravesend

