

Wallinger's white horse wins Ebbsfleet Landmark race

- *Planning process to start as soon as possible*
- *Technical and financial development studies to continue*

[10 February 2008: Kent, UK] The Ebbsfleet Landmark Project today announced that Mark Wallinger's white horse has been chosen as the winner of the competition to find a new world class public sculpture in Ebbsfleet, Kent.

Mark's proposal is for a 50 metre high white horse, standing on all four hooves at 33 times life-size. Sited to stand prominently at Springhead Park, the horse will overlook Ebbsfleet Valley, Ebbsfleet International station and be adjacent to the busy A2 trunk road. The sculpture will be seen by up to 60 million people per year.

The next stage in the development of the Ebbsfleet Landmark Project is to start the planning process with Gravesham Borough Council as the local planning authority. This is expected to last at least 12 months. In terms of cost, while estimates cannot be finalised in advance of planning and further technical studies, the Ebbsfleet Landmark Project Board recognises that in the current economic environment, fundraising is difficult, a situation that may ease while the planning process runs its course..

Mark Wallinger said: "This is a tremendously exciting project. There was some very tough competition and I am honoured that the Horse has won through. I and the team very much look forward to working with Gravesham Borough Council as the planning process progresses."

The Board of the Ebbsfleet Landmark Project endorsed the decision of the Ebbsfleet Landmark Project Selection Panel after having considered comments from the public engagement programme. This programme included a free, 12 week exhibition at the Bluewater Shopping Centre. It is estimated that over 6 million people had the opportunity to see the exhibition and the Ebbsfleet Landmark Selection Panel and Board had the benefit of over 50,000 comments from the public.



Victoria Pomery, director of the Turner Contemporary in Margate and Chair of the Ebbsfleet Landmark Project Selection Panel, said: “Our decision was made on artistic merit and Mark’s outstanding response to the brief. I am confident it is the right one. “Mark is a superb artist of world renown and his sculpture will become a real landmark for Ebbsfleet and the whole region.”

To date, the Ebbsfleet Landmark Project has been funded by the founding patrons: Eurostar; Land Securities; and London & Continental Railways, collectively committing in excess of £1m.

Speaking on behalf of the Ebbsfleet Landmark Project founding patrons, Stephen Jordan, chair of the Ebbsfleet Landmark Project Board said: “In spite of the current recession, this project remains important for the 25 year task of building sustainable communities in the Ebbsfleet Valley and strong economic development around Ebbsfleet International Station. All involved are committed to design excellence and Mark’s stunning concept reflects that aim. Now we can focus the further technical development and other practical studies on just one design as we find out what the planners make of it.”

Mark Wallinger had been shortlisted along with Daniel Buren and Richard Deacon. The original longlist also included Rachel Whiteread and Christopher Le Brun.

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