

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Jerwood Foundation Formally Submit Planning Application

The Jerwood Foundation has formally submitted its planning application for a new art gallery on the Stade, Hastings. If the application is successful, the Jerwood Gallery will become a permanent home to the Jerwood Foundation's substantial collection of 20th and 21st Century British art, and a new regional venue for the Jerwood Visual Arts programme of contemporary arts.

As well as over 500m² of gallery space, the building will contain a sculpture courtyard, education space, a small first-floor cafe with terrace, a research and archive facility, and offices and support space.

Jerwood has said that it wants the gallery to demonstrate leadership in terms of environmental sustainability and aims to build an exemplary low-carbon building.

Alan Grieve, Chairman of the Jerwood Foundation, said :- "On behalf of the Jerwood Foundation, I would like to say that the submission of our planning application for the new Jerwood Gallery in Hastings is very exciting and a major initiative for us. The art gallery, new public space and community facilities proposed for the Stade would, we are convinced, be the best possible uses for this important and unique site.

"We believe that the gallery as a building and all that Jerwood plans to bring to it would create huge benefits for Hastings and its communities. Our professional team has produced a design which would be a wonderful contribution to the character and attractions of this historic location.

"We are proud to be able to dedicate human and financial resources to this project at a time of national and international uncertainty and financial crisis. It is a moment of great opportunity for Hastings."

Council Leader Cllr Peter Pragnell added :- "This is a very exciting step forward in our plans to improve this area of the Old Town. The Stade deserves so much more than a coach and lorry park, and the Jerwood Gallery, and our own plans for the open space, community education facilities, and cafe, will transform this unique part of our town. It will create new jobs and bring additional visitors to the town, benefitting local businesses.

"We are extremely proud of our Old Town and its fishing heritage. The Jerwood Foundation's investment will complement the major improvements we are making here, with the help of the £2m grant we were offered recently from the 'Sea Change' programme, and the support already offered from the South East England Development Agency, and East Sussex County Council.

"The exciting open space we will be creating, and improved facilities, will bring huge benefits to the town, helping both local residents and the town's visitor economy."

The plans can be viewed on-line now at:

<http://www.hastings.gov.uk/planning/CaseDetail.aspx?id=96331>

and at a special exhibition to be held from 1100-1930 on Thursday 5th March at Hastings Arts Forum, Marina; from 1100-1930 on Friday 6th March at the Town Hall, Hastings; and from 1100-1600 on Saturday 7th March at the Fishermen's Museum, Rock-a-Nore Road, Hastings. The exhibition will also include the separate proposals by the Council for the Stade on the existing coach and lorry park and adjoining areas. This will be the subject of a separate and later planning application.

The closing date for formal responses to the consultation on the Jerwood Gallery planning application will be 27th March, although any correspondence received after that date will still be brought to the attention of the Planning Committee.

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Note To Editors :-

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