

DEAR RESIDENT

At the Council meeting in February the final details of the funding for the rest of the Sheerwater Regeneration Project were agreed. So we can now crack on and fulfil our promise to you to build a new garden village in the centre of Sheerwater with all the community infrastructure we have promised.

It will take some time to get everything in place to start the next phases of the project, but we will keep you informed at every stage of the process and you can always contact our project team who will be very happy to help you in any way they can.

Currently the building of the leisure centre is going extremely well and we are ahead of schedule. We hope to deliver all the facilities to the school at the beginning of next year and be ready to welcome residents in summer 2021.

You can see the first phase of the house building beginning to rise out of the ground. This will provide the first 92 new homes. I realise that even with the best intentions there will always be times when building works of this scale will cause inconvenience but do please keep us informed about any issues you have and we will try to overcome them.

This is the last you will hear from me via this newsletter as I am standing down as a councillor at the borough elections in May. I would like to thank you all for your patience and perseverance over the last few years and wish you all a happy and healthy future.

Cllr David Bittleston

Leader of Woking Borough Council

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NEWS IN BRIEF



SNAPSHOT OF SHEERWATER LIFE PRESERVED FOR ALL TIME

On behalf of the local community, the Mayor has placed a 16-inch stainless steel time capsule, containing treasured memories of life on the estate, into the ground where the first residential properties will be built.

Speaking at the event organised by site contractors, Gilbert-Ash, the Mayor of Woking, Cllr Beryl Hunwicks, said: "There has always been a strong sense of community spirit in Sheerwater so it's hugely symbolic that a small part of that has been captured and placed in the foundations of this new development."

SAFE AND SECURE

If you see any unusual or suspicious activity across the regeneration area, please report it to the Sheerwater Regeneration Housing Support Team to investigate. Officers carry out regular patrols and have been working with ThamesWey and Serco to secure void spaces and stairwells to deter rough sleeping and loitering. To report any concerns to the team, please call **01483 743870** or email **sheerwater.tenants@woking.gov.uk**. Outside of normal office hours, concerns can be reported to the Police via 101. If there is an immediate threat to you or your property, please dial 999.

NEWS IN BRIEF

BUILDING A CAREER IN CONSTRUCTION

Gilbert-Ash held an employability event in February at the Mascot Hub on Dartmouth Avenue to give school leavers and job seekers the opportunity to find out more about the type of careers available with the construction industry. The session covered skills, training, current opportunities, how to apply, and the experience of women in construction.

Site Manager, Peter Stinson, said: "As a business we are focused on making an impact and supporting the communities we work in and the people we work with. We are always looking to help people take their first steps into the regeneration and construction world. Hopefully attendees were able to get an insight into a career in construction, training requirements and job opportunities that may arise here in Sheerwater over the next few years."

POST OFFICE TO OPEN IN LONDIS

Post Office services are set to be re-instated at the end of March with the opening of a new counter in Londis (21 Dartmouth Avenue). Post Office services stopped in November following the resignation of the postmaster based in Martin's.

CHANGES TO SITE HOURS

In accordance with the hours approved in the Construction & Demolition Environmental Management Plan for the Purple Phase, Gilbert-Ash will be working on site between 8am to 1pm on Saturdays.

A WISLEY GOOD TIME IN THE GARDEN!

Our relationship with RHS Wisley continues to blossom and a number of potting and gardening workshops, led by its community outreach team, are planned throughout the year including bulb and wildflower planting in community green areas.

IN BLOOM COMPETITION RETURNS

Last year the Woking in Bloom judges awarded the Sheerwater community gardens first place in the 'community garden' category. The 2020 competition launches in April and to keep the gardens looking their best, Sheerwater Together is looking for help with weeding and other maintenance tasks. Sessions take place on the last Sunday of every month. Meet at the community garden nearest Londis at 2.30pm. The closing date for entries is Monday 6 July and other In Bloom categories include best small front garden, best hanging basket, best tub or container and there is a special award to encourage first time entrants, 'best newcomer'.

SUPPORT THE GREAT BRITISH SPRING CLEAN

Sheerwater Together is organising a local clean-up event on Wednesday 1 April to rid our streets and green spaces of litter. To get involved, join the party of volunteers on Dartmouth Green (opposite Asda), at 3pm. All equipment will be provided and refreshments will be served afterwards as a thank you for doing your bit.

DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

Purple Phase



Happening next:

- Building the next level(s) of the concrete frame for the six-storey apartment block
- Installation of roof membranes on balconies
- Start of the brick façade
- Mechanical and electrical installation
- Foundations for the three-storey town houses

Leisure Phase



Happening next:

- Roof and wall cladding
- Main mechanical plant craned into position
- Sports pitches

Interesting fact

Thanks to the adverse weather, the 500,000 litres of water required to test the two pools came mostly from rainwater harvesting and dewatering!

More photos online

woking.gov.uk/sheerwater

INTERVIEW: HOME SWEET HOME

Tenants, Mr and Mrs Evans and their four children (ages 7 to 12), moved from Dartmouth Path in Sheerwater last October to a new build in West Byfleet with the help of the Sheerwater Regeneration Housing Support Team. Mrs Evans talks about her family's experience.

Where do you live?

We live in three-bedroom semi-detached house in West Byfleet, which we moved into in October 2019 but for the past five years we lived in a three-bedroom terraced house in Dartmouth Path.

When did you engage with the Housing Support Team?

My husband and I attended a drop-in surgery at Parkview Centre for the Community around this time last year (March 2019), where we spoke with officers from the Sheerwater Regeneration Housing Support Team and members of the New Vision Homes allocations team. Roughly a week later, Karen from the Regeneration Support Team visited us to carry out a Housing Needs Assessment. She talked to us

in more detail about the regeneration plans and explained what our family's options were for rehousing.

What were your main concerns about moving?

We were concerned about where we might be rehoused because we didn't want our children to have to change schools or lose their friends. We then become worried that we might not find suitable accommodation by the time our home was required for demolition, and that we would become homeless.

What support did you receive from the Housing Support Team?

Reassurance. Following the home visit we felt reassured and were given the correct information and advice, which was much better than listening to hearsay within the community. It helped too having a dedicated housing support officer. We could contact Karen directly if we needed to.

How are you all doing now?

We're all really happy. This is definitely the happiest I've felt in a while and I've been more active and sociable in the community as a result. We're closer now to the children's schools so we're



spending less money on bus fares and our new home is right next to a park where they're able to meet up with friends. The compensation money we received as a result of moving enabled us to purchase new items of furniture, flooring and blinds throughout the house to make it a comfortable family home.

What advice would they give to tenants in a similar position?

I would advise other residents who are living in the regeneration area to engage with the Sheerwater Regeneration Housing Support Team, who are very helpful, and to be patient and only bid on properties you are truly interested in.

SHEERWATER REGENERATION HOUSING SUPPORT TEAM

The team continue to help make the regeneration process as smooth as possible for residents.

You can talk to them about:

- your housing options
- feeling isolated or vulnerable
- fly-tipping
- letters or notices that you have received
- how the project is progressing

Call **01483 743870** or email **sheerwater.tenants@woking.gov.uk**

FREE AND INDEPENDENT ADVICE FROM AWICS

Secure council tenants living within the regeneration area can access free, independent impartial advice about their housing rights from an independent tenant advisor, Adrian Waite.

You can call Adrian on **0800 321 3461** or email him at **sheerwater@awics.co.uk**

Any conversations you have with Adrian will remain confidential.

More information about AWICS please visit **awics.co.uk/a-new-vision-for-Sheerwater**

A PLACE WITH AN IDENTITY: STREET NAMING

In the coming months we will convene a panel of local experts to develop a street naming proposal for the new development, which will include suggested names for the new apartment blocks and other communal buildings.

The first principle of an effective wayfinding strategy (to use its correct name), is to give each location an identity that residents can use to navigate a space or orient themselves within a physical environment. Three 'character areas' have already been

identified for the regeneration project, which were approved by Council in April 2019. All street and building names will be derived from these three thematic areas.

Waterway and canalside area, comprising seven streets

Key characteristics:

- canal flora and fauna
- waterway and navigational features
- industrial heritage, historic canal usage

Common, park and heathland area, comprising 11 streets and six walkways traversing the large central park

Key characteristics:

- flora and fauna typical of the area
- birds
- trees, with particular reference to planting strategy for the project

Heritage, arts and crafts area, comprising 15 streets and 16 buildings

Key characteristics:

- design, craft and manufacturing processes from the arts and crafts movement
- local historic references
- Paul Weller and The Jam

What happens next?

We will appoint a panel of local experts, which will include representatives from the local community, to help develop the wayfinding strategy and street naming proposal. More information will follow, including how you can make suggestions.



HAVE YOU THOUGHT ABOUT JOINING THE SHEERWATER TOGETHER GROUP?

This community group meets monthly to discuss local issues, support or develop initiatives that benefit local residents, businesses and voluntary organisations in Sheerwater. The next meeting is on **Tuesday 31 March, 5.30pm** at Parkview Centre for the Community.

TRANSLATION SERVICES

Do you need help understanding this information?

Czy potrzebujesz pomocy w zrozumieniu tych informacji?

এই তথ্যটা বুঝতে আপনার কি কোনো সাহায্য লাগবে ?

શું તમને આ માહિતીને સમજવામાં સહાયની જરૂર છે ?

کیا آپ کو مدد درکار ہے ان معلومات کو سمجھنے کے لئے ؟

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The Sheerwater Regeneration Project is managed and delivered by Thamesway Developments Ltd on behalf of Woking Borough Council.

#WEAREWOKING