

## DEAR RESIDENT

**I said in the previous newsletter that it was the last time you would be hearing from me but that was before Coronavirus turned all our lives upside down.**

With the cancellation of the local elections in May, all council members due to retire in May 2020 (of which I was one), remain in office until May 2021 and continue in their appointed roles. So I remain both Leader of the Council and the Portfolio Holder for the Sheerwater Regeneration Project.

I have said and I believe that Woking's response to the pandemic has been "truly amazing". The response by community groups and volunteers has been inspirational and I am very proud to be part of such a caring community. You can read more about the work of council officers and partner organisations on page 3, but you as residents, have played your part too in helping to make Woking one of the safest towns in the country.

A couple of weeks ago I was lucky enough to have a tour of both the new community leisure facilities at Bishop David Brown and the first housing phase. Whilst Coronavirus may have stopped many things progressing, we have been able to continue working on both sites and I'm told, despite everything, both builds are on schedule. This is great news and means we can start to turn our attention to the next phases of the regeneration project, Red and Yellow, and work on these will start next year as planned. In light of this I will be taking forward the compulsory purchase order (CPO) to Full Council at the end of this month.

As we slowly come out of lockdown we will do everything we can to help to protect you and your families. It will be great to get back to some kind of normality.

Please stay safe and keep well.

**Cllr David Bittleston**

Leader of Woking Borough Council

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## NEWS IN BRIEF



### A SHED LOAD OF THANKS

Community group, Sheerwater Together, is delighted with its new shed, which will make it easier for members to maintain the community gardens on Dartmouth Avenue. The shed was donated by ASDA and installed by SERCO, the council's maintenance contractor. Jo Louca who leads on the gardening project for Sheerwater Together, coordinated and oversaw the installation.

Last year herbs and vegetables grown in the gardens were donated to the Mascot foodbank. This year, successful crops will be taken to Woking Foodbank on Forsyth Road. To get involved email [SheerwaterTogetherGroup@woking.gov.uk](mailto:SheerwaterTogetherGroup@woking.gov.uk)

### YOUR SAFETY AND SECURITY IS IMPORTANT TO US

If you see anything unusual or suspicious across the regeneration area, please report it.

During normal office hours (Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm), please report any concerns to the Sheerwater Regeneration Housing Support Team to investigate. The team carries out regular patrols and has been working with ThamesWey and Serco to secure void spaces and stairwells to deter rough sleeping and loitering. To contact the team, please call **01483 743870** or email [sheerwater.tenants@woking.gov.uk](mailto:sheerwater.tenants@woking.gov.uk)

Evenings and weekends concerns can be reported to the police via **101**. If there is an immediate threat to you and your property, **please dial 999**.

# DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

The initial phases of the project continue to progress well and take shape. At the start of the Coronavirus outbreak work paused briefly on the first phase of residential housing (Purple Phase). This has had no overall impact on delivery as parts of the build, such as the concrete frame, were ahead of schedule.

## Leisure Phase

*Brand new leisure centre with five-court sports hall, 25m swimming pool, teaching pool, fitness suite, two multi-purpose studios and a flood-lit all-weather 3G football pitch.*

What's been happening on site?

- Exterior finish applied to all sides (elevations) of the main building
- Internal fit out including plant and final fixtures
- Construction of the 3G pitch
- Seeding of the grass rugby pitch



Teaching pool being tiled ahead of the moveable floor being installed at the end of July.



Tiling of the main pool will be completed by mid July.



The water pumps and filters for both pools have been installed.



The rugby pitch has been completed and seeded.



The surface of 3G pitch has been prepared. During July the edging will be installed, followed by layers of stone and tarmac, which make up the underside of the playing surface.



Main fitness area on the first floor being fitted out.

## DEVELOPMENT UPDATE (continued)

### Purple Phase

A medium rise development incorporating Murray Green, 10 three-storey town houses and 82 one, two and three bedroom apartments.

What's been happening on site?

- ▶ Completion of the main concrete frame, marked with a topping out event
- ▶ Continuation of the of the brick façade
- ▶ Window fitting
- ▶ Internal partitioning
- ▶ Installation of mechanical and electrical systems

**See more photos online**  
[woking.gov.uk/sheerwater](http://woking.gov.uk/sheerwater)



### Topping out

When a structure reaches its maximum height (the tallest part of the build), it is traditional to mark this in some way, either with a plaque or other feature.

Chair of the ThamesWey Development Ltd Executive Board, Terry Price, had the honour of spreading the last drop of concrete on top of the 20m high frame. Sadly plans to celebrate this milestone with the community had to be abandoned due to Coronavirus but those working on site were treated to a 99 from the ice-cream van provided by Gilbert-Ash.

## CORONAVIRUS: CONTINUED SUPPORT FOR RESIDENTS

According to June figures, Woking had the lowest number of recorded Coronavirus cases and infection rate in the county. Cllr David Bittleston, Leader of the Council, commended residents for their resolve during lockdown and willingness to follow the Government's health and social distancing advice.

As restrictions start to ease, the council is reminding residents to be sensible when it comes to meeting up with friends and families, be mindful of others and not put them at risk, and to be safe by staying at home if someone in the household has symptoms.

At the start of the outbreak, measures were put in place to protect the borough's most vulnerable residents and support those affected by Coronavirus. Council officers made 10,500 phone calls to 4,500 vulnerable residents to check on their welfare and around 800 are continuing to receive support. A dedicated team of redeployed staff dealt with a 1,000 requests from the wider community for help with things like prescription collections, access to medical supplies and essential food shopping while self-isolating. Officers have also been quick to allocate funding and grant support provided by the Government. Around 2,300 households in Woking, already receiving Council Tax support, could see their annual bill drop by a further £150. Around a 1,000 residents have also had their housing benefit increased.

### What to do if you need help Council Tax

Payments are being taken as normal. Anyone who is struggling to make payments should email [ctax@woking.gov.uk](mailto:ctax@woking.gov.uk) or call **01483 755855** to agree a revised payment plan.

### General financial worries

Please visit the Citizens Advice website or speak to an advisor if you are concerned about loss of income and not being able to pay your bills.

**Website: [citizensadvice.org.uk](http://citizensadvice.org.uk)**

**Email: [bureau@wokingcab.org](mailto:bureau@wokingcab.org)**  
with your phone number

**Call: 0300 330 1198 or 03444 111 444**  
(calls charged at local rate)

### Coronavirus symptoms

If you or anyone in your household has any of the following symptoms, you must all stay at home and self-isolate. You should only leave home to get tested.

If you have any of these four symptoms:

- ▶ **high temperature**
- ▶ **new, continuous cough**
- ▶ **loss/change in sense of smell**
- ▶ **loss/change in sense of taste**

To help break the chain of infection visit [nhs.uk/coronavirus](http://nhs.uk/coronavirus) or call **111** to book a test or arrange for one to be sent to you.

### Help during self-isolation

If you're unable to ask friends or family for help with essential shopping, prescription collections, access to local services or you just need someone to talk to, please call the Community Helpline operated by Surrey County Council on **0300 200 1008** – available Monday to Friday, 8am to 6pm and weekends, 10am to 12noon.

# COMMUNITY NEWS

## Mascot Hub reopens

The Hub in Sheerwater is open again on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 9.45am to 4.15pm.

Please call ahead as Mascot will only see one visitor at a time and entry will only be permitted if you have an appropriate face covering. Hand sanitiser is available at the Hub and you will need to follow social distancing rules.

### Visit the Hub for help with:

- ▶ Foodbank and Foodwise referrals
- ▶ Job hunting and career progression
- ▶ Accessing local support services (signposting)
- ▶ Universal Credit – setting up or making changes to your account
- ▶ Finding and bidding on council properties

### Facilities you can use:

- ▶ Free Wifi (there is also a Wifi hotspot outside when the Hub is closed)
- ▶ Laptop and IT equipment
- ▶ Photocopier and printer

### For more information or to make an appointment:

Phone: 01932 988160

Email: [hub@mascotwoking.org.uk](mailto:hub@mascotwoking.org.uk)

Website: [mascotwoking.org.uk](http://mascotwoking.org.uk)

## Mondays

Conversational English sessions and the Friendship Café activities are still taking place virtually. Drop Mascot an email or visit the website for more information.

## St Michael's Church update



Preparations are being made to reopen the church in September for Sunday Worship. In the meantime, the church will be coming to you via Prayer Walks, scheduled to take place on Saturday 18 July, Thursday 13 and Saturday 22 August. These will start and finish at the church, moving around Sheerwater between 10am and 12noon.

Please look out for the congregation or to arrange a scheduled stop, please email:

[office@stmichaelssheerwater.org.uk](mailto:office@stmichaelssheerwater.org.uk)

More activities, sermons and updates can be found on the 'St Michael's Shared Church, Sheerwater' Facebook page.

## SOCIAL DISTANCING



### BE SENSIBLE

Limit contact with others and keep your distance



THIS WAY

### BE MINDFUL

Follow the measures in place to protect you and others



### BE SAFE

Self-isolate if you or anyone in your household has symptoms

## 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 ؟

01483 743869

[catharine.okon@woking.gov.uk](mailto:catharine.okon@woking.gov.uk)



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

# #WEAREWOKING