

DEAR RESIDENT



We're making progress

Regeneration projects are complex and take a long time, but when successful, the evidence shows that they improve local quality of life over the long term. Positive impacts on communities and individuals include improvements in areas such as education, employment, health, housing and the environment, with the greatest benefits observed in the most deprived neighbourhoods.

This is all well and good, but what about life in the short to medium term for the hundreds of residents who live, work or study in the Sheerwater regeneration area? You endured years of uncertainty waiting to see if the project would get planning consent, and now that it has, you're faced with conducting your lives amid a giant building site! I want you to know that I acknowledge and understand that these are challenging conditions for you all - as does the entire team involved in the project.

Conditions will get better and though it might be difficult to see, we are making progress towards those longer term goals. On page 3 of this newsletter you can read about how moving into Murray Place has improved Steven's quality of life, and on page 6, there's an update on the Eastwood Leisure Centre and the positive impact it continues to have on the community. On pages 2 and 7 there are also examples of how we're responding to your feedback about maintaining access and dealing with noise complaints.

We do listen, we do care and where we can make life better for you, we will. Details of how you can contact us with your concerns can be found on page 7, and once a month, I attend the monthly project board meeting where the issues you raise are discussed and actions are agreed.

Before I sign-off, I would just like to say a very warm

welcome to Foodwise, which is moving into the former nursery building next door to Parkview Centre of the Community (off Blackmore Crescent). It will be opening its very first eco food store and needs your help in refining its offer and making it a success (see page 8 for full story).

It seems entirely appropriate to me, that a charity concerned with reducing wastage, should be given the opportunity to reuse an otherwise redundant building with the intention of using it to benefit the community. And I, for one, look forward to picking up my first basket of groceries.

Cllr Debbie Harlow

Lead Member, Sheerwater Regeneration Project

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FRUIT TREE GIVEAWAY

As part of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations, we are giving away a limited number of fruit trees (pear, apple, cherry and plum) to Sheerwater residents, local businesses and community groups.

The trees are five foot tall and come in 10 litre pots. Please email zafar.iqbal@woking.gov.uk for further information. This initiative is supported by Clink Charity, based at HMP Send.



More news and updates at woking.gov.uk/sheerwater

NEWS IN BRIEF

PATH TO CANAL REINSTATED



Temporary path leading to the canal

Lifebuild has installed a temporary path in the recreation ground, alongside the Copper phase site boundary, to provide access to the canal towpath. The path, made of Grade 1 stone, has been rolled and compacted to form a hard surface and is now ready for public use.



Oversailing occurs when construction equipment enters the airspace above a property.

COMPULSORY PURCHASE ORDER (CPO) UPDATE

The Sheerwater Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) has now been confirmed by the Secretary of State. This gives the council the legal right to obtain any remaining land or property interests within the Sheerwater regeneration area without the consent of the owner.

The council is legally obliged to serve copies of the confirmed CPO on anyone with a relevant interest in the land affected. This includes residents whose properties are not required for the development but whose property may be oversailed temporarily by the jib of a crane during construction.

For more information visit woking.gov.uk/sheerwatercpo

10 step process for obtaining CPO powers



CANALSIDE DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

PURPLE PHASE: FIRST SOCIAL TENANTS MOVE INTO MURRAY PLACE

Steven Locke was a secure council tenant living in Sheerwater for the past eight years. His home on Dartmouth Avenue was needed for the regeneration, and last November, our housing support team helped Steven move into his brand new apartment in Murray Place.

How are you feeling after your move?

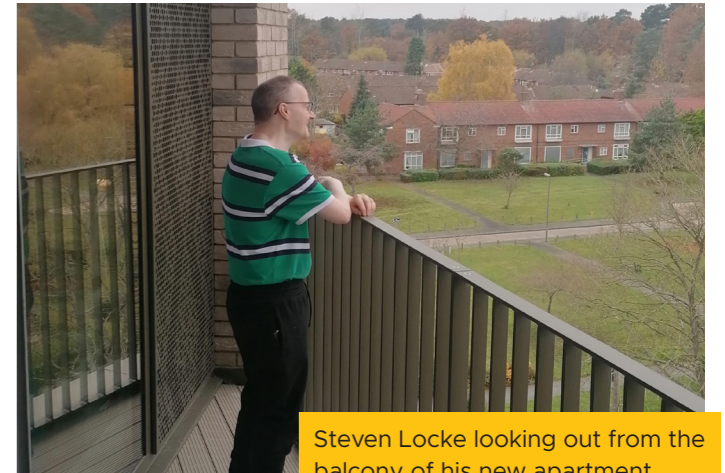
"I am ecstatic. I can't believe it's finally happened. The two properties are like chalk and cheese. It's a brand new start for me. At the start of 2021 I had the move hanging over me, no job and no car. That's all completely turnaround. Now have a new apartment, new job and a new car. I can't believe it, and I feel excited now for the future."

What were your initial thoughts when you first heard about the regeneration project?

"Initially I was really worried about where I would be living and how long it would take, however it seems to have flown by. I was settled in Sheerwater and knew I wanted to remain in Sheerwater."

How much time did it take from the offer to moving in?

"I received the offer letter from Thameswey and a member of the Sheerwater Regeneration Housing Support Team came to the viewing with me, which went really well."



Steven Locke looking out from the balcony of his new apartment.

"Thameswey gave me the option of having the curtains and flooring installed or I could supply my own. I thought it would be easier to go with Thameswey, and it was, the process was easy, and once the apartment was ready, I was contacted by the housing support team to arrange the sign-up and removals."

"The move went smoothly, and I am very happy. It already feels like home."

RED PHASE: LATEST SITE IMAGES

The concrete frame is now complete for the six-storey mixed-use apartment block and the seven mixed-use, three-bedroom maisonettes, which will overlook the central square.



Red phase February 2022



Red phase illustration

COPPER PHASE: BRICK AND BLOCK WORK CONTINUES

Six months into the build, the footings for the individual properties are visible and some are built to first floor joist level; drainage works are well underway and the new roads and avenues that connect the development's character areas are being surfaced.

The properties to the right of the main site entrance, off Spencer Close, are the most advanced. These form the start of the Avenue character area, and by the end of March, their roof trusses will be in place.

Lifebuild's Project Manager, Jonathan Sacree, said: "During the next quarter, brick and block work will be our main focus. This means more of the 88 homes that we've been contracted by Thamesway to build, will start to take shape above ground, and you will start to get a sense of what the finished development will look like."

"We're continuing the screen and crush material on site, and so far, we estimate this has saved around 200 unnecessary lorry loads by re-using the sifted topsoil and using crushed stone and concrete as hardcore. To date, none of the waste generated on site has gone to landfill. It's either been recycled or used to provide energy."



Lifebuild gets pupils thinking about a career in construction.

Sustainability and the impact of the construction industry on the environment, was just one of the many topics Jonathan and members of the Copper phase team discussed with Year 8 pupils during an interactive session at Bishop David Brown School in February.

Jonathan said: "The pupils were really interested to hear our presentation on the industry and also Copper phase. Many pupils didn't realise the career opportunities that exist in the industry and the sheer number of different job roles available."

"With there being two schools within the regeneration area, it presents a great opportunity to get young people in Sheerwater thinking about a future career in the construction industry."

Both Lifebuild Solutions and its groundworks contractor, Natta, will be attending the Bishop David Brown School careers fair in March.



The Avenue illustration



The Avenue, January 2022

YELLOW PHASE: STARTING SOON

Yellow phase works are scheduled to start this year. In readiness, the site is being cleared and secured with partial hoarding and Sitex. Some soft strip demolition of empty properties (removal of non-structural elements inside and outside) has also commenced.



Partial hoarding.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

ACCESSIBLE AND ADAPTABLE HOMES THAT CHANGE WITH YOUR NEEDS

The new Canalside development will deliver a wide range of property types that will offer a choice of modern, spacious, energy efficient homes, which are economic to maintain and flexible enough to satisfy diverse and changing needs.

All of the new homes have been designed to satisfy the Building Regulations Category 2: Accessible and Adaptable Dwellings optional requirements.

These optional requirements are met if a property is accessible to most people and incorporates features that makes it potentially suitable for a wide range of occupants, including older people, those with reduced mobility and some wheelchair users.

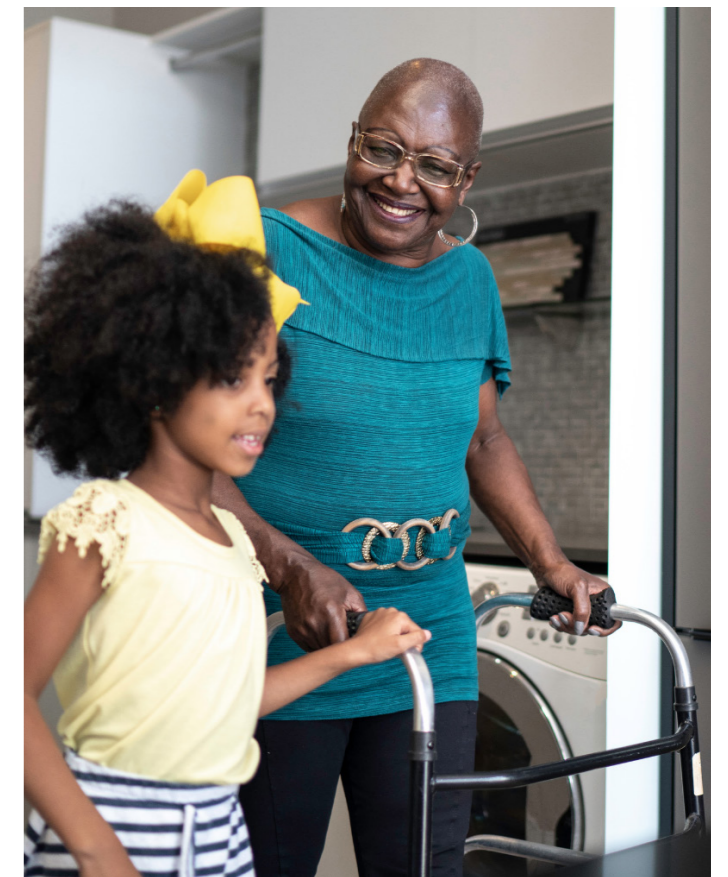
These features include:

- Step-free access to the property and to any associated parking space and communal space.
- Step-free access to a toilet and other accommodation at entrance level, and to any associated private outdoor space directly connected at entrance level.
- Bathrooms that can be used by a wide range of people including older and disabled people, and some wheelchair users.
- Provision (within the layout and building fabric) to enable common adaptations to be carried out in the future to increase accessibility and functionality of the home.
- Wall mounted switches, socket outlets and other controls that are accessible to people who have reduced reach.

Some of the new Canalside homes will also have wider door openings, accessible thresholds and windows which start a maximum of 850mm above floor level making them easier to see out of. Most apartments have floor to ceiling glazing to maximise natural light and connection to the outside world.

Senior Occupational Therapist, Allison Pinder, has been working with Thamesway on the design of New Woodlands, the sheltered housing block currently under construction as part of the Red phase.

Allison said: "Of the 68 sheltered apartments, 65 will satisfy the Category 2: Accessible and Adaptable Dwellings optional requirements, and the remaining three, on the ground floor, will meet the Category 3: Wheelchair User Dwelling optional requirements."



"I'm working with Thamesway to agree some of the specific details not covered by the building regulations, which can make a big difference to older residents. For example, kitchens in the New Woodlands apartments will be fitted with integrated ovens at waist-level, rather than below the countertop, so that the resident doesn't have to keep bending down and risk injury."

"We've also agreed that the showers in all 68 apartments will be level-access, walk-in showers without shower trays, and we've selected raised height toilets - simple measures which will assist older residents to maintain their independence at home for longer."

"From kitchen taps to shower seats, every detail needs to be thought about with our elderly residents and their broad spectrum of needs in mind. I'm currently working with Thamesway to design dementia-friendly communal areas which involves thinking about lighting, types of floor coverings, colours and visual cues to help residents orientate themselves."

"The more we can anticipate people's future needs during the design and build phase, the easier it will be to support them in their new homes."

EASTWOOD LEISURE CENTRE NEWS

1500 MEMBERS AND COUNTING



Membership sign-ups at the new Eastwood Leisure Centre continue to grow steadily and exceed projections.

Ricky Trainor, General Manager at the Eastwood Leisure Centre, said: "The range of activities on offer at the leisure centre is expanding all the time as more and more local clubs want to use our facilities. New activities include cricket, netball, badminton, football, tennis, dance, Zanga, table tennis and short tennis.

"Our Learn To Swim lessons have started and are proving so popular that we're now in the process of recruiting more swim teachers and lifeguards. You don't need any previous experience to be a lifeguard because we provide full training. Please ask at reception for more information about joining our team, or to enquire about any of the activities that interest you.

"Whilst our membership packages provide unbeatable value, you don't need to be a member to use the pool and many of our clubs offer 'pay as you go' activities."

March promotions

- Join now and enjoy 12 months for the price of nine on any annual membership
- Pay by direct debit and get 50% off your first month's membership fee
- Free three-day guest pass

SUPPORTING CLUBS TO GROW

To support the club's growth, Cardinals Netball moved weekend training to the new Eastwood Leisure Centre, when doors opened to the public in October 2021.

The club was founded in 2011 by two netball loving mums, Kate Carthy and Hilary Hooper, and a decade later, the club is now recognised as the third largest junior netball club in the country.

Cardinals Netball was recently awarded the Trotman Trophy, Woking highest sporting honour, for its continued growth and inclusivity.

The Trotman Trophy recognises outstanding performance, development or services to sport and has been awarded to both individuals and clubs in the past. Notable recipients include Olympic rower, James Cracknell OBE and modern pentathlete, Kate Allenby MBE.

Head Coach, Kate Carthy, who grew up in Sheerwater and attended Bishop David Brown School, said: "It's a huge honour to see Cardinals Netball engraved on this trophy alongside some really notable figures. Being able to offer girls in Woking, and the surrounding area, the opportunity to play sport, meet new friends, keep fit and stay healthy - it's just an incredible feeling."

Head Coach, Hillary Hooper, born and bred in Woking, said: "We're an inclusive club with a friendly atmosphere. You don't have to try-out to join Cardinals Netball - if you want to play netball, and we have space, then you're welcome to join regardless of ability.

"There's something for everyone, and at our club we recognise that members like to train for different reasons. There's a great social aspect, competitive netball if that's what you want, fun and fitness for all!"

For more information about Cardinals Netball visit cardinalsnetball.com



Cardinals Netball team honoured with the Trotman Trophy for the club's continued growth

3G PITCH NOISE MITIGATION



The new 3G pitch, home of Sheerwater FC, has generated some noise complaints from local residents. We have commissioned a noise consultant to explore options to reduce the noise levels to more acceptable levels.

They concluded that the most effective solution is to install a four-metre acoustic fence along the northern perimeter of the pitch. Because of the cost and size of its installation, the procurement of this acoustic fence will have to go out to tender, and it will have to achieve planning approval. We aim to install this fence during the school summer holidays.

COMMUNITY NEWS

ANIMAL ENCOUNTERS AT PARKVIEW



Petting farm at Parkview Centre

To spread a little festive cheer, the team at Parkview Centre of the Community, put on a petting farm to bring the community together. Donkeys and reindeer were among the collection of farm animals that could be stroked and petted, and occasionally fed, with supervision from the Animal Encounters staff.

Parkview Operations Manager, Donna Gregory, said: "On the day Parkview had a great Christmas vibe and everyone that came had hot chocolate and goodies. The atmosphere was amazing and I look forward to putting on another petting farm in the Easter holidays."

CONTACT US

The council is committed to making the regeneration process as smooth as possible for residents.

If you have any comments, queries or concerns, please get in touch.

Online: woking.gov.uk/sheerwaterenquiry

Email: charterforsheerwater@woking.gov.uk

Phone: 01483 743870

Support for council tenants

Our team of dedicated housing support officers can:

- Talk to you about your housing options
- Help you bid for properties
- Help you claim compensation for moving
- Arrange removals
- Help with the transfer of utility bills and other accounts to your new address

Call 01483 743870 or email sheerwater.tenants@woking.gov.uk and a member of the team will get back to you.

SHOPWISE IN SHEERWATER

Foodwise, a pioneering, Surrey-based charity, has moved into the former nursery building off Blackmore Crescent.

This is a major coup for Sheerwater and the charity, which has been searching for a base in Woking to expand its operation.

Foodwise works to reduce food waste and food insecurity by:

- redistributing excess supply (supported by FareShare)
- helping people to eat better (through free courses)
- supporting young adults to find employment within the catering and hospitality sector (see latest opportunities at www.neat2eat.care).

Inside the refurbished nursery building, Foodwise has installed a professional 'cloud kitchen', which has been rented out to a start-up catering business, and in the other half of the building, Foodwise has opened it very first eco food shop.

The ShopWise store will be stocked with food items, which for various reasons (think wonky veg and imperfect packaging), didn't make onto supermarket shelves and would otherwise be chucked away.

Foodwise Trustee, Martin Vodden, said: "The shop is for anyone who wants to help save the planet, cut food waste and pick up a basket of goods for a great price. Eco shops like ours offer one of the most affordable, healthy and sustainable ways to feed a family, and by becoming a member of ShopWise, you can enjoy the benefits we offer, whilst being environmentally responsible.



Setting up shop (from left to right) Foodwise Trustee, Martin Vodden; Foodwise Operations Manager, Shani Orchard; and Colin Sullivan, Chief Operating Officer of Neat2Eat.

"In store we have supplies of dried and tinned foods, for example, pasta, rice and chopped tomatoes, and a selection of fruit and veg. What's available each week will vary, and we're currently looking for volunteer delivery drivers who can help us collect unused produce locally so that we can expand our supply of fresh and perishable foods."

To begin with the not-for-profit store will open twice a week but Foodwise hopes to increase store opening hours with the help of local volunteers.

Martin continued: "Our ethos is 'by community, for community' so we hope Sheerwater residents will support and get involved with the shop, which is a pilot project and will need shaping and refining. We also need help deciding what to do with the rest of the building. There are a number of other rooms, and a fantastic outdoor space, which can be put to good use if local residents let us know what they need or want to see in Sheerwater. Please share your ideas with us when you visit the shop or post them online."

Follow @FoodWiseTLC on Facebook and Twitter for store opening hours, latest deliveries, recipe ideas, volunteering opportunities and more.

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

GOT AN IDEA TO SHARE WITH FOODWISE?



SCAN HERE

WWW.COMMUNITYFORUM.WOKING.GOV.UK/SHOPWISE

- What products do you want to see in the shop?
- What would you do with the outside space?
- What support do you need to help your family eat better?



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

#WEAREWOKING