

# WENSLEY ROAD ESTATE IMPROVEMENTS

Newsletter | April 2022



**WENSLEY ROAD**  
live. play. grow



Dear Resident,

I would like to thank all residents in and around Wensley Road for their patience whilst work continues. Good progress is being made, and once the piling is complete work will be able to commence on the exciting construction of new homes.

We do appreciate the impact that the work has on your lives. Our drop in sessions provide an opportunity for discussions on any problems that are arising, and we have wardens on site (see page 4) that you can talk to – we are sympathetic to your feedback and are doing everything we can to minimise any issues with the improvements you tell us about.

To help with the appearance of the estate, the fenced off areas where construction is taking place have had branded hoardings added, with more to come including some colourful artwork from local community groups and children.

Please bear with us as the contractor makes progress with this development and please do continue to raise any concerns that you have. You can contact the team directly through the website.

I hope some of you will be able to take part in the free Easter activities highlighted in this newsletter and I wish you all a very happy Easter holiday.

Kind regards,

**Zelda Wolfe**

Reading Borough Council Assistant  
Director of Housing & Communities

## HOARDINGS



You will have seen branded hoardings going up last month around the site. This is to help smarten up the area for you whilst necessary work takes place, and to help explain the changes that are coming. Further branded hoardings will also be erected, including a special community hoarding that is already in place in the middle of the blocks with artwork created by local community groups alongside an artist, and will also feature living contributions from pupils at the St Mary & All Saints C of E Primary School.



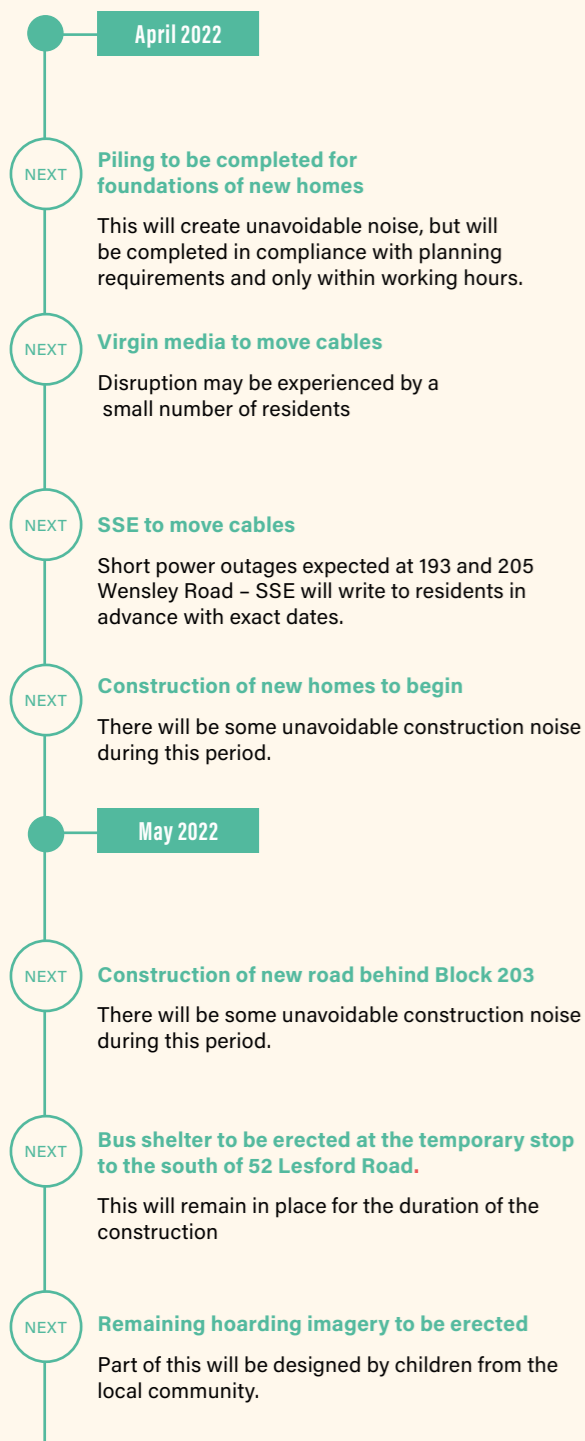
Keep up to date with all the latest news at  
[www.wensleyroadimprovements.co.uk](http://www.wensleyroadimprovements.co.uk)



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Borough Council  
Working better with you

## NEXT STEPS

Work is continuing on the Wensley Road Improvements project, and these are the next steps you should be aware of taking place around your estate...



Please note all dates are subject to change. Should changes on timings arise, further updates will be provided.

## CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES AT EASTER AND BEYOND

**Holiday Activities and Food scheme**  
Brighter Futures for Children is co-ordinating the Holiday Activities and Food scheme on behalf of Reading Borough Council, funded by the Department for Education. It will provide activities and lunch for children eligible for pupil premium free school meals over Easter, Summer and Christmas holidays.

If your child is not currently in receipt of pupil premium free school meals but you think they could be eligible, please fill in an application form and submit it to your child's school – google Brighter Futures Holiday Activities for the form and more information.

**Love Your Neighbourhood community event**  
**Wednesday 13 April, 9.30am – 5pm, Coley Park**

In conjunction with Thames Valley Police and Reading Borough Council, find out about support services and opportunities in Coley. There will be information stalls, sports coaching activities, crime prevention advice and litter picks.

**Free No5 art wellbeing workshops**  
**Be part of creating a mural for No5's waiting room**  
**Wednesday 13, Thursday 14, Wednesday 20 and Thursday 21 April, 4pm – 6pm**

All workshops will be run from 4:00pm to 6:00pm and will be held away from No5's building, at the Reading Quaker Meeting House, 2 Church St, Reading RG1 2SB. If you are interested in a place on these workshops, please email No5 Project Coordinator Abbie, projects@no5.org.uk.

**Freewheelers cycling**  
**Try a bike obstacle course for free**  
**Wednesday 13 and 20 April, 12pm – 3pm**

For children aged 9 to 15 at the open air theatre, Swallowscroft, behind Coley Park Community Centre.

**Eggstravaganza Easter event**  
**Saturday 16 April, 10.30am – 3.30pm**

At Holy Brook Nook (just over the wooden bridge from Brook Street West near RG1 6BB) with guided nature and history walks, arts and crafts, 'Whose egg am I?' trail with prizes, sculpture workshops, bug hunting and more. Book your free place at [easternook.eventbrite.co.uk](http://easternook.eventbrite.co.uk)

**WORDLE trail**  
**Puzzle walking trail around Coley**  
**Friday 8 – Monday 18 April**

Collect a Wordle grid from outside Coley Church or download one from [www.coleychurch.org.uk](http://www.coleychurch.org.uk). Find the six Wordle puzzles hidden around Coley and arrange them in the right order on the grid.

**Rabble Theatre Company**  
**Develop acting skills and take part in professionally produced productions**

Saturday mornings, summer term time only  
Free places for 8-16 year olds to join RABBLE Young Company

RABBLE runs a Young Company for young people aged 8-16. A limited number of free places are available for the summer term – to find out more email [tash@rabbletheatre.com](mailto:tash@rabbletheatre.com).



With rising energy bills and cost of living, we want you to know about support services available in Reading.

## DON'T MISS OUT ON HELP AVAILABLE

Money/debt advice services can help you in a number of ways including:

- Check you are receiving all the benefits you are entitled to.
- Explore ways to increase income and reduce outgoings.
- Advise on bills/debts that need to be paid to keep important goods and services.
- Support you to make an informed decision how you would like to deal any debts you might have.

- Understand benefit awards and help you to challenge decisions.
- Plan your spending and get back in control of your finances.

Our Money Matters website [www.reading.gov.uk/money-matters](http://www.reading.gov.uk/money-matters) brings together a host of valuable free information which residents can access to help them improve their financial situation, including a benefit checker, a directory of local and national advice services available along with other useful information.

If you are a Council tenant or resident affected by the benefit cap, you can contact our Debt Advice Team of highly trained and friendly advisors who can provide you with free, confidential, impartial, personalised advice.

Visit [www.reading.gov.uk/debtadvice](http://www.reading.gov.uk/debtadvice) or call 0118 937 2197 for more information.

## MEET THE WENSLEY ROAD ESTATE WARDENS



*Hi I'm Ryan, and I've been a Housing Estate Warden since December 2021.*

Residents may see me out on patrol between the Coley Tower Blocks and Shaw Road. Whilst patrolling we look after your estate and deal with offences like fly-tipping, dropping litter and vehicles parked in restricted areas. We also log any repairs needed that we come across. Our ultimate objective is to ensure those who live, work and visit feel safe and welcome in Coley and we work with a range of council departments and partner agencies to achieve that.

Come and say hello if you see me when out and about - you can talk to me about any housing queries or concerns you may have from anti-social behaviour to building cleaning and crime prevention.

There's a real community spirit here, so it's brilliant to be a part of this improvement project that will greatly benefit the local community.



*Hi I'm James, and I'm new to the role of Housing Estate Warden for Coley having joined in March.*

I like to maintain a high visibility presence to the community through foot patrols. We typically deal with issues like fly tipping, obstructive vehicles and anti-social behaviour; however, our role can extend beyond that! Typically you'll see me around the estate or towers, sometimes with the Environmental Officer who keeps the towers and estate clean and tidy and a better place for the residents to live.

If you see me around feel free to ask for help around any issues concerning Council housing, the estate itself or the development of Coley. Ryan and I and will be happy to answer your questions or point you in the right direction!

I am excited to be part of the development across Coley, especially for the towers. I believe the new windows and new external fabric on the way will completely transform the towers for the better!

## NEXT TENANT DROP-IN SESSION

Our next tenant drop-in session will be on Wednesday 25 May from 4pm - 6pm at Coley Park Community Centre where you can just drop in to chat to us, ask questions and see plans for the improvements, both the upcoming changes to your homes and also find out about the new ones being built.

If you wish to know more email our Tenant Participation Team Leader Mary Hull [Mary.Hull@reading.gov.uk](mailto:Mary.Hull@reading.gov.uk), call Mary on 01189 372730 or text her on 07834 335309.

## HELP US TO STOP FLY TIPPING AND KEEP OUR NEIGHBOURHOOD NICE FOR EVERYONE

Items of bulky waste are being left around the estate which has a negative impact for all local residents. We are looking at bringing in a free bulky waste collection service in the summer and will provide more details in a future newsletter, but in the meantime please don't dump your waste. Until then you can still book a visit to the re3 recycling centre on Island Road or call us on 01189 373787 for a quote on collecting your large items.

We have CCTV in operation, and action will be taken against offenders which could lead to a maximum penalty of an unlimited fine and/or up to a five year custodial sentence.

## JOIN THE ESTATE LITTER PICK

One of our tenants, Dominika, has been doing a great job co-ordinating regular litter picks around the estate and Courage Park. Having started off as just Dominika and her daughter, now around 10 residents meet at the Coley Park Community Centre at 10am on the first Saturday of every month. Equipment is provided and children are welcome so please do join in by turning up then to help.

