

WENSLEY ROAD ESTATE IMPROVEMENTS

Newsletter | October 2022



WENSLEY ROAD
live. play. grow



Dear Resident,

I'm sure many of you are wondering why progress on the new build housing has been so slow in recent months.

World events from the COVID pandemic to the war in Ukraine, and even Brexit, have caused shortages of materials and skilled labour impacting on delivering new housing. Many suppliers have had to slow or stop production and lead in times for building materials and services are much longer than they used to be.

We want the work completed as quickly as you do so we can provide opportunities for you to move into new housing, and are working closely with the contractor to progress work on site as quickly as possible to deliver the estate improvements that will benefit the community.

We know this has been a challenging time and thank you for bearing with us.

On a positive note, our information day in August was well attended, and it was great for us to meet so many residents. The petting farm and free ice-cream were a big hit, and thanks to all of you who entered the colouring competition. Some of the entries you submitted showing your view of your community appear throughout this newsletter.

If you have any comments or concerns, please contact our Property Development Team by emailing propertydevelopmentteam@reading.gov.uk or calling our contact centre on 01189 373787 and asking for the Property Development Team.

Kind regards,

Zelda Wolfe

Reading Borough Council Assistant
Director of Housing & Communities



Keep up to date with all the latest news at
www.wensleyroadimprovements.co.uk



HOW OUR ALLOCATIONS SCHEME WORKS

When the new homes are built at Wensley Road, current estate residents in housing need will have priority to move within the estate. To bid on these or any available social housing in Reading, you will need to register with Homechoice. We encourage residents to apply online and there are more details about this on our website www.reading.gov.uk if you search Homechoice. You must have lived in Reading for at least three consecutive years. If you have any queries, please contact the Voids and Lettings Team on 0118 937 2172 or via email to allocations@reading.gov.uk.

HELP US NAME THE NEW TERRACES AND COURT!

We need your help to provide the official names for the three new terraces and one new court!

We are looking for suggestions that reflect the area, for example based on the industries of the Coley area, names of influential local families or community champions who have made a difference, or anything else you think might be relevant!

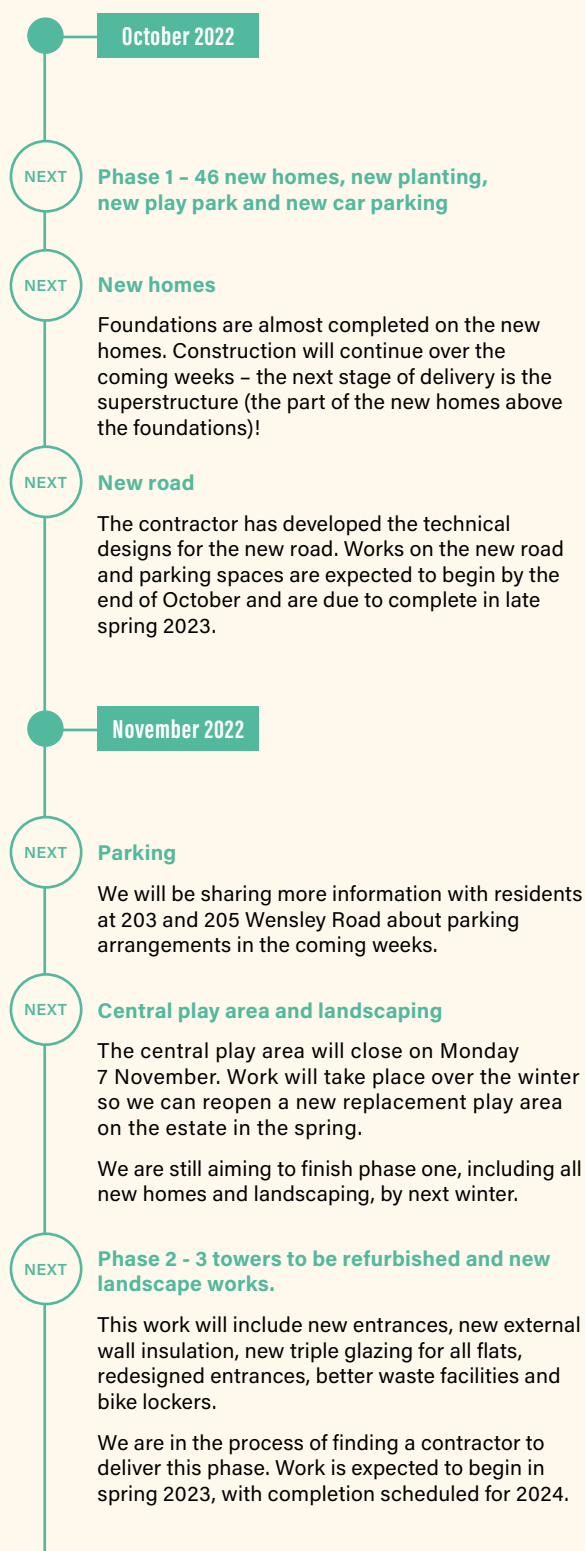
If you have ideas for the new names, please email propertydevelopmentteam@reading.gov.uk with your suggestions.

The closing date for suggestions is **Friday 4th November**.

Tenants who provide the winning suggestions will each receive a £10 Love2shop voucher.

NEXT STEPS

Work is continuing on the Wensley Road Improvements project. These are the next steps...



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

PARKING

We understand that there are exceptional pressures on available parking at the moment and are doing everything we can to help.

You can do your bit too by:

- Reporting inconsiderate parking
- Being mindful of your neighbours when you are parking
- Not obstructing driveways or parking on grass verges and footpaths. This causes problems for those with pushchairs and mobility problems.

There are usually parking spaces available around the loop during the day so please use them. Parking Enforcement have increased patrols in the area and where vehicles have blocked pavements and access the police may also be contacted. Our estate wardens are sticking vehicles on council land which cause an obstruction, or do not have valid MOT or tax.

We are expecting work to deliver the new road to begin again in the next month. When the new parking is delivered it will provide significantly more parking spaces than were originally available. In the meantime, we have provided two temporary car parks - beside block 205 Wensley Road and in Lesford Road.

Parking Services are available to help and can be contacted via our contact centre on 01189 373787 or searching Parking Services on our website www.reading.gov.uk.

KEEPING YOUR ESTATE TIDY

Our dedicated team of Housing Estate Wardens and Housing Environmental Officers are doing all they can to keep your estate clean and tidy.

Whilst patrolling, our Housing Estate Wardens look after the estate and deal with offences like fly-tipping, dropping litter and vehicles parked in restricted areas. They will also log repairs and are available to help with resident queries.

Our Housing Environmental Officers work hard to keep the estate clean and tidy. The team want to help make the area better for everyone.

If you spot an issue or have a query, please speak to one of the team out and about on the estate or email us via h&eservices@reading.gov.uk.

FREE BULKY WASTE COLLECTION SERVICE

One way we are making it easier for you to do your bit to keep the estate tidy is by introducing free bulky waste collections.

All households can book one free collection every six months to dispose of up to three items at a time (or one fridge / freezer) and anything from beds to bicycles, cots to cookers and tables to tumble dryers.

Across the town a total of 80 slots - 16 free pick-ups each weekday - are available each week and can be booked online by going to www.reading.gov.uk/bulkywaste. Residents who do not have internet access can book by telephone with our call centre on 01189 373787.



EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES COMING SOON...

BE WELL THIS WINTER

Thursday 27 October, 1pm - 4pm

Coley Park Community Centre,
Wensley Road

Come along to our winter wellbeing pop-up where you can get a mini health check, find out more about getting COVID-19 and flu vaccines, and let us know any help and support you need. Free refreshments will be available.

HALF TERM HANGOUT

Thursday 27 October, 10am - 12.15pm

All Nations Christian Centre,
Berkeley Avenue

Free session of games, crafts and songs for primary school children, and an invitation to stay for lunch afterwards with your child. Register at www.allnationselim.org/half-term-hangout.



FAMILY LIGHT PARTY

Monday 31 October, 5pm - 7pm

All Nations Christian Centre,
Berkeley Avenue

Free evening of games, songs, activities, snacks and drinks. Non-scary fancy dress encouraged! Register at www.allnationselim.org/light-party.



WARM WELCOME SPACE

Tuesdays 10.30am - 3pm
from 1 November

All Nations Christian Centre,
Berkeley Avenue

A warm, friendly environment available for you to drop in and enjoy hot drinks, puzzles, board games, food and activities for children.





FEEDBACK FROM INFORMATION EVENT

On 18 August our information afternoon for households in the three towers provided the chance to learn more about the planned improvements including:

- New triple glazed windows and external rendering to make homes warmer and cheaper to heat
- New redesigned entrances
- Better waste facilities and bike lockers

There was also a petting farm, face painting, a colouring table and free ice-cream for anyone who completed a feedback form and their families.

Feedback was that residents were looking forward to the new windows, improved insulation and improved appearance, with some concerns about security and safety of the new windows, lifts breaking down, and wanting good notice for when the new windows will be fitted. We're taking into account all feedback when planning for the future of the estate so please keep talking to us about it.

BUILDING A TENANT PANEL

Also at the information event in August we asked tenants to work with us throughout the improvements by joining our tenant panel, becoming a block rep, being part of a focus group or completing questionnaires on the work. This generated a really positive response and we are looking to hold a further event either online or at the community centre for anyone interested to find out more. If you would like to join us please contact Mary Hull on 01189372730, text 07834335309 or email Mary.Hull@reading.gov.uk

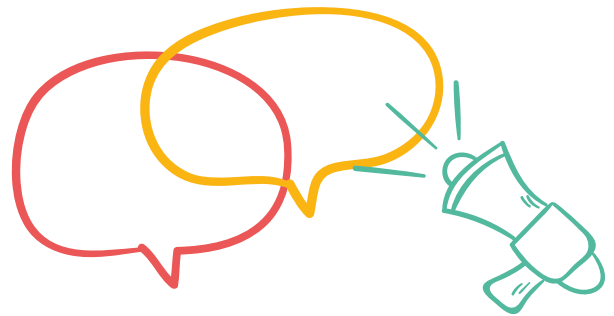
IMPROVEMENTS DROP IN SESSION

30 November - Save The Date

These events give you a chance to meet the team and raise any questions or concerns about the development.

The next one is on Wednesday 30 November between 4pm and 6pm.

If you have ideas for what you would like to see covered on the day contact Mary Hull on 01189372730, text 07834335309 or email Mary.Hull@reading.gov.uk



RATS

You may have noticed an increase in the number of rats in the area. This is only a short-term spike caused by temporary utility open excavation works and changing weather conditions. Pest control are on the case and dealing with it!