

WENSLEY ROAD ESTATE IMPROVEMENTS

Newsletter | December 2023



WENSLEY ROAD
live. play. grow



Dear Resident,

I hope you're all looking forward to Christmas and making the most of the extra time with friends and family.

It's only a couple of weeks until 2024 now, which promises to be an exciting year for residents at Wensley Road. The first thing you'll see completed early in the year will be the new park which will provide an attractive new central hub for the estate and new play equipment for younger residents. This will be followed by the new homes being completed, which some of you will be moving in to.

Next year will also see the start of Phase 2 of the regeneration, including the new windows for all flats in the towers, new entrance areas and new external insulation which will really smarten the towers up.

I hope you have a great Christmas and we look forward to working with you next year to complete the regeneration of your local area.

Kind regards,

Zelda Wolfle

Reading Borough Council
Assistant Director of Housing & Communities

PARK UPDATE

You will have noticed that the new park is taking shape, with landscaping continuing and play equipment is due to begin being installed over the next few weeks.

Once this is complete, the new park will be checked and signed off by safety inspectors and we hope to have it open for everyone to enjoy early in the new year.



*Wishing everyone a very
happy Christmas and
holiday season from
Reading Borough Council*

PHASE 1 UPDATE

Construction work on the new houses and flats is continuing. The first terraced houses are progressing towards their final phases, and are being fitted out internally at the moment. By Christmas all flats and houses should have roofs on to make them fully weather-proof.

The three new parking areas around Irving Court and Riversley Court are now available for use, and over the next month we'll be installing permanent street lights and electric vehicle charging points. In spring the new bus route between Wensley Road and Riversley Court will be in place, which will open up more parking spaces in those areas.



PHASE 2 UPDATE

We have received back all tenders from interested parties, and hope to appoint a contractor before Christmas for this phase of the development. Early next year we will then work with the appointed contractor to produce detailed designs of, and applications for, all the work being planned. Once that is finalised, we will then be able to share a timeline with residents for the completion of the work.



CHRISTMAS ACTIVITIES

Sunday 17 December

Christmas Lunch (Reconciled Assembly of God)

Coley Park Community Centre, RG1 6DW
12.30pm – 3pm

Wednesday 20 December

Grassrootz Youth Club

Coley Park Community Centre, RG1 6DW
6pm - 7.30pm: Juniors (age 7-11)
8pm - 9.30pm: Seniors (age 11-16)

Thursday 21 December

Christmas Movie Hangout

All Nations Christian Centre, Berkeley Avenue, RG1 6JE
3pm: Saint Nicholas (for children in Reception class to Year 4)
6pm: Nativity! (for children in Year 5 to Year 8)
Reserve your free place at
www.allnationselim.org/christmas-movie



OTHER NEWS

Road sweeping

A number of residents have mentioned the condition of the road around the estate due to construction traffic. Glenman, who are doing the building work, should be sweeping the road regularly to keep it in a good state for you. We are aware of the situation, and have asked Glenman to ensure they stay on top of this to keep the estate's roads as clean as possible.

Solar panel damage

We are aware that a resident, or residents, have damaged the new solar panels on the roofs of the new homes being built. This is both expensive and dangerous, and is only to the detriment

of those friends and neighbours who may end up moving into the homes. The police have been informed. If you see any further incidences like this please also inform the police. Anyone caught doing this will be in breach of their tenancy and risks being evicted so please show respect for your estate.

Chromebooks available at Southcote Library

Ten new Chromebooks with built in wi-fi internet access are available for loan from Southcote Library. You can borrow one with an adult library card and take it away to access the internet in your own home outside of library hours. Loans are for one week. If you don't have a

library card, you can register on the day if you bring proof of your address and signature.

You will need to sign a loan agreement accepting responsibility for the cost of the Chromebook if it is lost or damaged. They can be useful for study, completing training courses to get back into work and also accessing the internet generally if you do not have access to a device or have an internet service at home.

REMINDER ABOUT REGISTERING FOR THE NEW HOUSING

The new homes will be allocated via Homechoice at Reading, so if you would like to be considered for one of them you must have an active application. If you have not already applied, then we recommend that you do so as soon as you can.

Here's how to apply:

- Online at www.reading.gov.uk/homechoice
- Email us at allocations@reading.gov.uk
- Call us on 0118 937 2172

If you require any assistance with this process, please make contact with the team either by phone or email to discuss.

RESIDENT DROP INS

The last Wensley Road Estate drop in session was held in the community centre on Wednesday 29 November. Issues raised by residents attending included checking on their housing applications, finding out more information about the new properties, reporting issues on the estate such as repairs, antisocial behaviour and street cleaning. Any issues we couldn't clear up that night we took away with us to find out and follow up. A number of concerns were raised about the bus service, which we are addressing directly with Reading Buses.

The next drop in will be on Wednesday 31 January from 4pm to 6pm in the Coley Park Community Centre. In the meantime, if you have any issues or queries please don't hesitate to get in touch with us.



HELP AVAILABLE TO YOU OVER CHRISTMAS

Christmas can be a wonderful time of year but it can also create money problems for people, with additional costs that are hard to cope with.

You can find help and support on warm places you can access, ensuring you have enough food to feed your family and general cost of living tips and support on our website:

Warm spaces: www.reading.gov.uk/warmspaces

Foodbanks: www.reading.gov.uk/food

Cost of living support: www.reading.gov.uk/money



CONTACTING READING BOROUGH COUNCIL OVER CHRISTMAS

The Council will close for all non-essential services from 5pm on Friday 22 December and will re-open at 9am on Tuesday 2 January.

If you need urgent help during this time please call our customer service out of hours line on 0118 937 3737.

