



WENSLEY ROAD

live. play. grow

Newsletter | July 2021



live



play



grow



By Reading Borough Council's Assistant Director of Housing & Communities
Zelda Wolfe

Dear resident,

Things are moving forwards with the improvements to the estate, and you will have seen a lot of the groundwork being put in place so far to allow us to really push on with the project over the second half of the year. This has involved the fencing off of some parking areas, but rest assured we are doing everything we can to free up extra parking and make sure this is as small an inconvenience as possible to you.

Don't miss your opportunity to have your say on the new play area that we are installing in Courage Park. Now we've sorted out better access and lighting through to the park from the estate, we're getting ready to give you the play equipment your families deserve and can enjoy there, and you can vote on which one we choose! See page 4 for how to do that.

Another opportunity for you to get involved and help shape the way forward yourself is to join our Tenant Panel and give us the feedback of your neighbours and yourself – see right about how to do that.

Finally, with the summer holidays arriving next week we want to help you all get out and about and enjoy some local entertainment in the good weather! We've teamed up with a number of local partners such as Brighter Futures For Children and Reading FC to offer a range of events to keep families entertained all summer – see page 3 for more details.

Enjoy the summer and please bear with us as the work continues to help make the Wensley Road Estate a better place for you to live.

Yours,

Zelda

USE YOUR VOICE TO SHAPE THE FUTURE OF WENSLEY ROAD ESTATE

Tenant Panel

We're sure you've been talking about the changes coming up around the estate. We'd love you to use your interest in the project to become the voice of your community on our Tenant Panel, to help oversee the improvements that are coming up including new windows and landscaping. We want you to have your say - and represent your friends and neighbours too - by joining the group. To sign up or find out more contact our Tenant Participation Team Leader **Mary Hull** on **01189 372730** or at **mary.hull@reading.gov.uk**.

Stakeholder Group

The stakeholder group met for the first time at the end of June. It includes representatives from the Tenant Panel (see above), Community Centre, St Mary & All Saints C of E Primary School, Brighter Futures For Children and Coley Baptist Church and gives those attending the opportunity to feed in any concerns or suggestions around general issues impacting the wider community. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 22 September.





PROGRESS SO FAR

The nesting birds have now flown, which means the remaining trees to be removed have been able to be felled and chipped. The chippings were taken to the allotments to be used there.

The Monolith tree stump has been removed and cut into sections, with the pieces due to be used as a bug hotel which residents young and old alike can enjoy.

You will have noticed that the existing garage blocks have been taken out of use, ready to be demolished to create room for the new homes.

WHAT TO LOOK OUT FOR NEXT

With the final trees removed, work will now proceed with the first of the new roads, running north to south behind Irving Court. This will create additional parking spaces, some of which will be accessible parking spaces and others with vehicle charging points.

PARKING SOLUTIONS MOVING FORWARD

During the improvements to the estate there will unfortunately be some disruption to available parking. We're sorry for any inconvenience this brings, but are doing everything we can to keep this problem to a minimum. Some areas within the development will be demolished to create temporary parking areas, and we are providing alternative parking spaces in other nearby areas.

The garages at the rear of 72 Wensley Road (behind the shops) will be demolished and the area cleared to make way for 24 short term parking spaces during the estate improvements.

There are also new garages and four parking spaces being provided at 52 Wensley Road which will be available from the end of September.

We will be creating new parking as the main contract work progresses. Where possible this will be released for resident parking - please keep an eye out for local notices and letter drops updating you on changes.



SUMMER FUN FOR CHILDREN AROUND THE WENSLEY ROAD ESTATE

With the summer holidays approaching there's lots to look forward to around the estate, with a number of fun family events laid on for free and activities to keep children of all ages entertained. Here are some dates for your diary:

Saturday 24 July, 2-4pm - Where in the world does my food come from? Coley Park Community Association & Food 4 Families at Coley Park Community Centre

Tuesday 27 July, 2-5pm - archery, giant jenga, giant connect 4 at the area between the blocks of flats, Wensley Road

Tuesday 3 August, 2-5pm -frisbee golf at the area between the blocks of flats, Wensley Road

Tuesday 10th August, 2-5pm - Football Tournament at Courage Park, Wensley Road, Coley

Tuesday 24th August, 2-5pm Summer Community Festival at Courage Park, Coley

At each of these events, laid on by Brighter Futures For Children, you can meet the Detached Youth Team too.

Every Tuesday in August, 11am - 12.30pm for ages 5 to 16 - Food 4 Families cooking class at Coley Park Community Centre.

Every Tuesday in the summer holidays, 1.30 - 2.30pm- Reading FC Kicks sessions, at Coley Recreation Ground.

Every Friday from 9 July until end of holidays - Grass Rootz Youth Club at Coley Park Community Centre (ages 8-12 from 5.30pm - 7pm, ages 12-16 from 7.30pm - 9pm).

NEWS AROUND THE BLOCKS



Rats

We hope you have noticed a drop in the number of rats around the estate. Weekly visits from pest control teams are helping to drive down numbers, and will continue to ensure that, along with the landscaping that will begin shortly, the estate grounds become a great outdoor space that you can enjoy using.

Bin chutes

We need your help to ensure that we can keep the rats at bay. They come looking for food, so it is the responsibility of all tenants to ensure you are disposing of rubbish properly so we don't encourage them. Every floor has a bin chute (apart from the ground floor) which is located centrally within your block. Please use it for all small bagged domestic waste, and take recycling down to the bin area as usual in the green recycling bags provided.

Swings

You may be aware that recently we had to remove some of the swings in the play area. This was for safety because of vandalism to the flooring under the swings, which has now been repaired.





NEW COURAGE PARK PLAY AREA - YOUR VIEW MATTERS!

As part of our exciting plans to improve the Wensley Road Estate and the local facilities you can use, we are creating a new play area at Courage Park, and want your views to help shape what it looks like. This will provide an exciting range of play equipment for children of all ages, and will be in addition to the new play area for younger children on the estate. Three different designs have been put forward, and we'd like you to take a look and let us know what you think, with public opinion forming part of the process in picking a winner that you'll be able to use soon! The consultation is now open for you to have your say at www.reading.gov.uk/couragepark - but make sure you've voted by 6 August 2021. We'll reveal the winner in our September newsletter, with work starting to create the playground in the autumn.

You can also link to the consultation page by hovering your smartphone camera over this QR code:



HELP US TO HELP YOU - HEALTH AND SAFETY MESSAGES

Recent events

Our contractor Glenman has experienced some vandalism and theft around the site recently, with fencing damaged, and several fire extinguishers discharged or stolen. These are important life preserving items for the use in the event of a fire, and safety is vital so please keep an eye out around the estate. Other thefts have involved metals set aside for recycling and steel railings, and there have been several fly tipping incidents which are not only a nuisance but are also costly. Please be vigilant and if you see any theft or fly tipping on site contact **Site Manager Conor Murphy on 07387 415929**.

Looking forward

The main works will soon begin, with site hoardings due to go up with dedicated access points in place. Please note that these access and exit points serve as emergency access and must be kept clear at all times. The local recycling containers will be shifted away from the gates opposite Lesford Road. These will remain close by, just away from the gates. Emergency contact numbers are posted on the site gates and are available on the project website.

www.projectwensleyroad.com