

Wednesday 1st February 2023

Parkside Regeneration Newsletter

February 2023

Welcome to the first Parkside Regeneration Newsletter, designed to keep you up to date regarding the exciting plans for New Haw. Thank you for signing up!

A newsletter will be produced every three months and will be sent to those that have asked to receive it. The newsletters will also be made available on the Council's website.

You can update your communication preferences by completing the form on the Council's website, e-mailing parksideregen@runnymede.gov.uk or calling 01932 425916.

Progress

Residents will be aware that the Council are in the early stages of exploring whether it will be possible to carry out a regeneration of the Parkside area.

Specialist consultants will be hired to assess the potential challenges we will face when undertaking the regeneration. Five companies have applied to carry out this complicated process, and Council Officers are currently reviewing who will be best to do it. Outcomes of the work will be used to inform the regeneration project.

Some challenges that we will need to overcome are already known. These include reducing the risk of flooding, protecting the Basingstoke Canal Conservation Area, removing or working around the overhead powerlines, protecting biodiversity, as well as others. It is possible that the contractors will identify other challenges, but it will also be the start of planning how to overcome them.

The Housing Committee, Chaired by Cllr Jacqui Gracey, has set ambitious aims for the project.

Cllr Gracey sets out the aims to "include improving the quality, quantity and range of social housing available, delivering new and improved community facilities, and new Independent Retirement Living accommodation, while meeting our environmental aims and ensuring regular and meaningful engagement with residents throughout the project."

The first stage of assessing the areas and preparing reports will be completed by Autumn 2023. Housing Committee will then decide whether to proceed with the concept design stage. Throughout the process we will update the website and provide newsletters to those that have registered.

You will be invited to share your views on the plans in due course. Consultation opportunities will be well advertised and those that have opted to be contacted will receive direct invitations.

Update on Resident Events

On 31st October and 1st November 2022 residents of the regeneration areas were invited to hear from Cllr Jacqui Gracey, Chair of Housing Committee and New Haw Ward Councillor along with Council Officers. Three events were held, one at Heatherfields, one at Woodham and New Haw Day Centre and a third on-line.

In total around 100 people attended the events. The key message was that the project is at the very early stages, and we acknowledge that communication is key. It is hoped that some early myths and rumours were dispelled and that attendees saw that the team were available to discuss residents' concerns.

Andy Vincent, Corporate Head of Housing, said "The regeneration of the Parkside area presents an exciting opportunity to provide desperately needed new homes that are highly energy efficient. We will keep residents informed and want to hear from them as the project moves forward."

The Council's website has been updated following the events, including answers to Frequently Asked Questions.

More events will be held in the future, in conjunction with the design team.

We recognise that it is important to provide more answers to the questions around what will happen, and we will continue to update residents as and when information is available.

Questions

If you have any questions regarding the project, please go to the dedicated Parkside Regeneration pages of the Council's website: www.runnymede.gov.uk/parkside-regeneration

Alternatively contact the Parkside Regeneration Project Team via parksideregen@runnymede.gov.uk or 01932 425916

Yours sincerely



Mark Bawden
Housing Development Manager