

Parkside Regeneration Newsletter

Issue No. 3 September 2023

Welcome to September's Parkside Regeneration Newsletter. Previous newsletters are on the Council's website for those that missed them. We understand that residents especially want to know what is happening and therefore newsletters will be produced four times a year.

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.

What is currently happening?

The Council have appointed architects and surveyors to help assess what is possible for the Parkside area.

Architects are considering what mix of homes could replace the current properties. It is too early for a detailed design, but they are producing options for roads, the number of properties and enhancing green spaces.

Surveyors are considering various elements that will influence the design, for example the risk of flooding, the soil types and ground levels, the road networks, the local utilities, and others.

We are committed to considering the environment and the impact that the regeneration would have. Plans will need to be drawn up regarding local ecology as well as the areas near the Basingstoke Canal, which is a Conservation Area. We will also consider how best to reduce carbon emissions.

What will happen next?

Early next year we will talk to residents of the area. We will know more about what is feasible and Members of the Council's Housing Committee will decide whether to continue with the project. It is important to note that even at that stage we still will not know with certainty if it will happen. There will still be outstanding matters – not least of which is whether the project is granted planning permission.

Residents will be able to talk to the design team, including representatives from the Council, about what they would like the new scheme to include. This can then be considered as the plans develop.

How would the project be paid for?

This will need careful planning as the project moves forward. We already know that much of the accommodation in the area needs significant investment to make it more energy efficient. The plans for the regeneration are ambitious and therefore it will be very expensive. Either way a lot of money will be required.

The Council hopes to produce a mix of Council rented homes, low cost home ownership options and homes for outright sale. There will not be a reduction in the number of Council rented homes. The money from selling houses will effectively help to pay for the new Council homes.

The Council expects to access funding from Central Government and other sources for this sort of project.

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