

## **Parkside Regeneration Newsletter**

### **Issue No. 4 December 2023**

Welcome to December'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](mailto:parksideregen@runnymede.gov.uk) or calling 01932 425916.

#### **Update.**

In the last newsletter, we explained that we would be asking the Council's Housing Committee whether initial investigations supported continuing with the regeneration project. Routine reports are presented to elected Members of the Committee to make sure that the project is proceeding as expected.

Ridge, our main consultants and designers, have done a lot of work exploring what might be possible. This work involves looking at the area and checking things like the flood risk, soil conditions, ecology (plants and animals), and many other technical elements that can influence what can be built. They have also started to look at how many new homes could replace the current properties.

One of the main risks to the project has been the potential for flooding in the area. Currently the Environment Agency deem the area to be at a high risk of flooding. This means that building new housing in the area would be very difficult. We now have specialist advice that states that this flood information may be wrong. The risk of flooding from the River Wey and Basingstoke Canal may not be as bad as was previously thought, although this is still subject to confirmation from the Environment Agency.

We are aware of localised surface water flooding. The plans moving forward will take account of these sorts of issues. Designs will aim to reduce flooding and protect new and existing homes in the future.

Presented with the above and other information in a detailed presentation and report, Members have agreed to the project proceeding to the next stage. There are still outstanding matters, but we can now start to think about designing the regeneration with confidence that it is now more likely to happen.

#### **What will happen next?**

Early next year we will talk to residents of the area. We now know more about what is possible although, as we have explained in the past, it will be subject to planning permission and available finances, so we still do not know with certainty if it will happen.

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.

#### **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](http://www.runnymede.gov.uk/parkside-regeneration). Alternatively contact the Parkside Regeneration Project Team via [parksideregen@runnymede.gov.uk](mailto:parksideregen@runnymede.gov.uk) or 01932 425916.

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