

Rowner Matters

Issue 7 – November 2009

Rowner Renewal
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Rowner
renewal



Members of the Rowner Renewal Design Team and Portsmouth Housing staff celebrate Phase One Planning approval

Rowner celebrates 219 new homes Phase One detailed planning is granted

The Rowner Renewal Partnership was delighted to receive the approval of the Phase One detailed planning in October from Gosport Borough Council. This means that work can soon begin on the first 219 new houses and flats at the southern end of Howe Road.

The planning application was submitted in July 2009 and the Partnership continued to inform residents of the detail and answer any concerns they had. Outline planning permission for the project had been

Continued on page 2

Rowner celebrates 219 new homes (continued)

recommended in April but each phase has to go forward separately for detailed planning permission.

The Partnership held a public exhibition of the Phase One plans on 31 July and 1 August. The plans found overall support from the visitors with some residents eager to reserve specific properties in Phase One.

However, after this event, some residents raised concerns about one specific area at the northern end of Howe Road.

After reflecting on the issues raised by the community, the Partnership decided to withdraw the northern Howe Road proposals from the detailed planning application. The Partnership will be giving further thought on how best to develop this small area and to allow for further consultation to take place.

Hazel Warwick, spokesperson for the Partnership said:

“The Partnership is committed to engaging with all residents and is delighted that the planning approval has been passed for the 219 new homes. Work will now be able to start in January 2010 at the lower end of Howe Road. The southern end of the site is now largely empty and we are re-housing those remaining as soon as possible.

To celebrate the start of the project a time capsule collated by the pupils at Siskin Junior School will be placed at the southern end of the site. In addition Taylor Wimpey, with the Rowner Renewal Partners, will be visiting the local schools to involve young people in construction site safety awareness.

It is hoped that residents will be able to start moving into the new homes next summer. It has been a long time in the planning and we just can't wait to begin.”

Timetable

Phase One

Site preparation:

November/December 09

Work begins: January 2010

Residents move in: Summer 2010

Phase Two

Detailed design stage: Winter 09/10

Planning submission: Autumn 2010

Decision expected: Winter 10/11

Moving stories

Mrs H has lived in Rowner for a number of years and due to circumstances was in need of extra support. The help was provided by Kate Large who works for The You Trust, which Hampshire County Council funds. Kate knew Mrs H would need more help with the move than the one day a week that she provides.

As Portsmouth Housing Association is committed to assisting residents, Lyn Kenyon, Rowner's Project Housing Coordinator, spent two days before the move with Mrs H helping her to pack and prepare for her new home.

Since the move, Lyn has voluntarily helped Mrs H buy a wardrobe, shelves, blinds, doorbell, chest of drawers, arranged for BT lines to be re-connected, filled out redirection forms and arranged for delivery of fridge, freezer and cooker and other items to help her settle in. Mike Hadenham also of Portsmouth Housing Association has helped Mrs H with her electrical installations.

Lyn received a thank you from Kate Large, Mrs H's support worker for helping her with her move. She said:

"I would like to thank you for all the help and support you have given me with Mrs H over the past few weeks, without you she would not have been able to have moved."



Lyn Kenyon, Mrs H and Mike Hadenham



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Tesco signs for Rowner's Phase Two

New store to create 225 local jobs

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The Rowner Renewal Partnership is delighted to confirm that the supermarket planned for Phase Two of the regeneration of Rowner is Tesco.

Hazel Warwick, spokesperson for the Partnership and Group Development Director for Portsmouth Housing Association said:

"This is an extremely important milestone for The Rowner Renewal Partnership. The Partnership's business plan has always anticipated a major supermarket for the project. The supermarket proposal gained outline planning permission in June 2009 as part of the overall

plan for the area. Following Phase One planning permission in October and the signing of the contract with Tesco, the Partnership is now working on the detailed design stage for Phase Two. In addition to the supermarket there will be 373 square metres for some smaller retail units alongside the store."

Cllr Mark Hook, Leader of Gosport Borough Council added:

"I am delighted that the Rowner Renewal Partnership and Tesco will now be able to secure local employment for people in Rowner. Job creation was part of the Rowner Renewal Partnership's remit and

this is very welcome news not only for Rowner but for the economy of Gosport as a whole. Gosport Borough Council has been impressed by Tesco's track record of working with communities, its local employment practices and its corporate social responsibility. We know Tesco is keen to work in partnership with us to secure our aims for the future of Rowner."

Work on Phase One begins at the southern end of Howe Road in January with the first residents moving in summer 2010. The project has an eight year timescale and is expected to be completed in 2017.

Commenting on the proposals Juliette Bishop, Tesco Corporate Affairs Manager, said:

“We are extremely pleased to be working in association with The Rowner Renewal Partnership on what will be a major regeneration project for the local area. We believe these are exciting plans, offering significant investment during a difficult economic climate, creating around

225 new jobs at the Tesco store and providing wider retail choice for the community.

Tesco always aims to employ locally and will work closely with organisations such as Job Centre Plus and Gosport Borough Council to achieve this. Staff will receive on the job training and support to develop their careers at Tesco and we will offer flexible working, part-time

roles and encourage job-sharing opportunities and shift-swapping whenever possible.

Subject to The Rowner Renewal Partnership receiving full planning consent and constructing the store, we would hope to be ready to open the new Tesco store during 2012. We look forward to working with The Rowner Renewal Partnership and the community as the plans progress.”

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Additional new jobs for Rowner

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In addition to Tesco’s creation of new jobs, Taylor Wimpey, the construction partner of the Rowner Renewal Partnership via its contractors will be able to provide jobs in construction and that local firms will be given the opportunity to bid for the contracts.

Taylor Wimpey has also committed to provide a minimum of five construction apprenticeship places for local people.

Following a local event, ‘Opportunity Knocks’ in September Taylor Wimpey now has a pool of information on local relevant labour; this pool will allow them to offer apprenticeship schemes through their contractors for local people to work on the regeneration project.

The Partnership is also supporting a new Community Café initiative by Gosport Voluntary Action (GVA). The Community Café will serve the construction workers when work begins on site in January 2010. This will provide new jobs and training in catering and

customer service. All the profits will go back to the community in initiating new projects for Rowner.

Jacky Charman, Rowner Community Development Officer for the Rowner Access Point which is run by GVA says:

“This is a very exciting initiative and I am delighted that the Rowner Renewal Partnership is supporting us in bringing this idea to reality – a real enterprise opportunity for Rowner. We look forward to providing a service on site in the New Year.”



Jacky Charman

Rowner's community mural

Community murals are a great way for residents to take part in brightening up the area where they live. The houses in Exeter Court, in Rowner, were recently repainted – but a long brick wall at one end of the court was looking a bit drab.

First Wessex Neighbourhood Improvement Fund (which has residents on the panel) agreed to a bid to pay the costs of decorating the wall. Two meetings were held with local residents so that the artist could find out what sort of design people wanted. Residents were clear that they didn't

want anything too bold, and preferred a 'countryside' theme – the Court backs onto a nature reserve called the 'Wild Grounds'.

Some people were worried that the mural would attract graffiti. This has not been a problem with previous similar projects – in fact, mural projects are often used as a way of working with young people to create something they can take pride in and so reduce graffiti and vandalism. Residents were reassured that the funding also covered the cost of six follow-up visits by the artist to touch up any problems – and because they were painted on wooden panels,

these could always be removed if they were badly defaced.

The mural was painted over four days during the school summer holidays. Young people worked with the artists to paint the background onto all 14 panels and about 30 people then turned up to paint the finer details. After two coats of varnish the panels were fixed to the wall – much to the delight of the children who had helped create them.



Rain, rain and more rain...

That didn't stop the Rowner Carnival sunshine!

Summer seems a long time ago now but we couldn't resist to brighten your spirits with Homes & Communities Agency's photographs of the Rowner Carnival. The Rowner Renewal Partnership and First Wessex staff had two stands at the Rowner Carnival which, despite the weather, attracted hundreds of people. We interpreted the Carnival's theme of 'Nature' in a number of ways.

Firstly, we produced bright information/recipe cards on how to grow your own fruit and vegetables in pots and/or small spaces and gave these out to residents. Gosport Borough Council also provided beautiful planters for our stands containing a mixture of fruit, vegetable plants and flowers and we filled the Rowner Renewal wheelbarrow with plants and information leaflets.

Children from the Courts Zone Residents' Group grew plants from seeds, selling them on the stand for the benefit of the Residents' Group and they made their procession banner and wore specially branded T-shirts for the procession.

First Wessex staff decorated the Rowner Renewal hard hats with paper flowers, cardboard grasses, insects and other exotic creatures (we found however that the tissue paper flowers did not hold out well in the rain although the shelter of the hard hats was very welcome – we even gave the Mayor one to wear!

Our Nature Quiz for young people was very popular as was our colouring competition for the under 5s. More importantly, we all took part in the grand procession and carried the Rowner Renewal banner up high. Rain could definitely not stop play on this day. Fingers crossed for better weather next year though.



Opportunity knocks

Rowner's next steps to a better future

Rowner residents came along to The Nimrod Centre to a free 'Opportunity Knocks' half day on Friday 11 September. With funding from Lloyds TSB, Jacky Charman, Community Development Officer for RAP brought together a host of organisations to hold a fun friendly event aimed at reducing barriers to a better life.

Jacky explains:

"At this peak of recession we have concentrated on employment and training opportunities and information to help people get back into work. We want to give Rowner residents the support they need to work out their next steps to a better future.

We are delighted that Taylor Wimpey, part of

the Rowner Renewal Partnership, has confirmed that there will be a number of apprenticeship opportunities as part of the Rowner Renewal regeneration scheme. Taylor Wimpey was there on the day as well as Fareham College (construction apprenticeship provider) so that any young people wishing to find out more about apprenticeships were advised appropriately. Other organisations offered practical help on CV writing, advice on job search, setting up your own business and free confidence courses."

A spokesperson for Taylor Wimpey said:

"As the developer of the Rowner Renewal scheme, Taylor Wimpey will be attempting to employ local skills and labour from where possible within the

Gosport area. This event will allow us to gauge the potential opportunities for local people to work upon this exciting project. We also had professionals on hand who advised on the potential routes into the construction industry."

The following organisations were also present: Army and RAF, Catch 22, South East Training, Taylor Wimpey, Reach Out – VT, Fast forward. Wheatsheaf Trust, Connexions, National Apprenticeship Service, Job centre plus, Enterprise Gateway/Business link, Fareham College, Extended school, NCMA. Childminding Development & Network Careers Advisor, Early Education and Childcare Unit/Children's Information Service, Gosport Volunteer Centre. Groundwork, St Vincent College, Hampshire County Council Library and Information Service and Illegal Money Lending Team.

Rowner's Time Team

It is well known that the site in Rowner existed in Anglo-Saxon times. As part of the planning conditions granted at outline, a programme of archaeological works was commissioned by Taylor Wimpey.

In June Foundations Archaeology made an evaluation on the land at Rowner. The first dig revealed artefacts which possibly date to the Saxon period – two shards of Saxon pottery were found and pieces of fired or burnt clay was also there. The Saxon period is between AD410 and AD1066.

A second dig started on 11 November and is expected to last approximately two to four weeks.

Roy King the archaeologist explains:

“The site lies in an area of known Anglo-Saxon archaeology. The previous evaluation work, undertaken earlier this year, revealed well-preserved Saxon deposits relating to occupation. The up-coming trenching is designed to expand upon this information and to try to identify the extent, date and potential of the Saxon settlement.”

The Rowner Renewal Partnership does not expect to find anything substantial that may prevent us from building but we are undertaking the digs to satisfy the planners and to record and register what is on site.



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Taylor Wimpey sponsors Rowner resident

Ayesha McLelland attends the BMX national competitions.

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Taylor Wimpey are pleased to be supporting Ayesha McLelland with £500 to help her attend the BMX national competitions.

Ayesha McLelland is the daughter of a Portsmouth Housing resident who works in the Nimrod Centre and lives in Rowner. Ayesha (aged 15) has developed a passion for BMX cycling and has been training on the BMX track here on Rowner.

She is currently No 1 in the Nationals for 13–15 year olds and in the British and Southern Championships. She is part of the British Talent Team of British Cycling and following her success was awarded £1,000 by the Council last year to purchase a proper bike.

The expectation is that she will make it to enter the 2016 Olympics. We have just heard she has been selected for the Olympic Talent Team!

Except for a sponsor for her clothes and bike she does not receive assistance. Her family has to pay competition fees, travel and accommodation etc, out of their own pockets which meant that Ayesha was not able to take part in some competitions due to funding problems. This problem has now been solved thanks to the sponsorship by Taylor Wimpey.



Ayesha McLelland is currently No 1 in the Nationals for 13–15 year olds and came fifth in the British Finals of BMX racing



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Rowner's Christmas Event

Please put Saturday 28 November in your diaries

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Come along to the Nimrod Centre from 1pm–4pm to join in the festive spirit.

Santa will there of course in his grotto plus there will be a stage show in the main hall featuring the five finalists from Rowner's Got Talent plus some karaoke slots for the Nimrod user groups – should be fun watching!

Also in the main hall we will be raising money for for Nimrod Centre Garden Fund with our tea and cakes. Other activities in the afternoon include a bric a brac sale, a tombola, a nearly new sale, face painting and kid's craft activities.

Join in the fun and see you there!

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Rowner's got talent

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We are delighted to announce that there will be a Talent Show for the people of Rowner on Saturday

21 November. We will be sure to cover this in our next newsletter.

Site safety talks for school pupils

Taylor Wimpey's Health and Safety Poster Competition for Rowner's 7–11 year olds.

Pupils at Siskin Junior School will shortly be given a talk by Taylor Wimpey about the dangers around building sites and how to stay safe. As the Rowner Renewal project is an eight year project, Taylor Wimpey want to make the younger children aware of the dangers around a building site and how important it is that they don't try and get into them.

Taylor Wimpey will be showing the children their safety equipment, including hard hats and reflective jackets to stay visible. During the visit the children will be asked to design a poster – the winning three designs will be printed and displayed on the hoardings around the Phase One development.

Taylor Wimpey is giving £50 high street vouchers as the top three prizes in its health and safety poster design competition. The winners will be announced in a special assembly.

It is hoped that this will be an annual event organised with the school throughout the lifetime of the project.

It is hoped that all the children aged 7–11 will take part and as well as doing introductory work in class, they will be allowed to take their posters home to work on with their parents/carers.

If you are not a pupil of Siskin Junior School and are aged 7–11 years old and live in the Rowner affected area then please get in touch with the Rowner Enquiry Line and we will organise a talk with your school so you can get involved in the competition too.

In the next issue of Rowner Matters we will give you an update on the winners.



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

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