

Rowner Matters

Issue 6 May–June 2009

Rowner Renewal
Enquiry Line:

08450
343317

Rowner
renewal

“Gosport’s jewel in the crown”

Artist’s impression of the centre



This is how one councillor described the Rowner Renewal £145 million regeneration proposal for the centre of Rowner. In a unanimous vote that united all parties, the outline planning submission was granted approval subject to the usual conditions on 21 April 2009. It was heralded as one of the most important planning applications that Gosport has seen in a long time and the debate was over in a matter of minutes before councillors gave the go ahead.

The plans followed over a year’s intense public consultation with residents and community groups to devise a MasterPlan. The eight year project to replace the existing properties with homes built to the Homes and Communities Agency’s (HCA) standards of high quality and sustainable housing. As well as providing the existing residents with an improved environment, the regeneration scheme will deliver 37% affordable housing.

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“Gosport’s jewel in the crown” (continued)

The first area to be developed will be at the southern end of Howe Road and possibly around the footbridge area of Rambler’s Drive. The whole project is expected to be completed in 2017. Using over £4 million funding from the HCA, £3 million from PUSH and the financial resources of Portsmouth Housing Association, over half the properties within the regeneration area are owned by Portsmouth Housing.

Hazel Warwick, Spokesperson for The Rowner Renewal Partnership and Regeneration and Development Director of Portsmouth Housing Association said:

“This is a very exciting day for the Partnership and represents over several years’ hard work in planning and public consultation. The Partnership will now work on the detailed planning application for the first phase of the development with the view to start on site in late summer/autumn 2009.”

“The area at the southern end of the site is now largely empty and we are looking to re-house those remaining as soon as possible so that we are ready for the regeneration to begin. Our detailed architectural drawings for each individual phase will be exhibited as soon as they are available and we will continue to involve and work with all concerned.”

David Ashworth, Director of Development for the Homes and Communities in the South East said:

“This approval comes after extensive consultation with residents and we are delighted that we can now move to preparing detailed designs for the first phase. I would like to thank all those who

participated in the consultation and the preparation of the planning application.”

Since the submission in early January, the Partnership has continued to engage with residents and community groups. At the end of January the Partnership invited residents to the Nimrod Community Centre to view the plans over two days. Approximately 65 visitors came along – whilst there was some constructive criticism including suggestions on how to improve room lay-outs and some concerns regarding the finance, the plans were generally well received.

A small number of concerns were also raised directly with Gosport Borough Council planning department and the Partnership responded directly to these with a leaflet explaining in more detail their intentions. This leaflet is available for viewing or downloading from the Rowner Renewal website – www.rownerrenewal.com

Dates for your diary

Carnival Time

**Saturday 11 July – 12 noon
Siskin School Campus**

Please put the date in your diary. This year’s theme is “Nature” Lots of volunteers are needed. **Please contact Debbie or Jacky on 023 9258 0096.**

Cabinet member’s visit



Barbara Higgins (SureStart), Ian Lycett (Gosport Borough Council), Yvette Cooper MP, Mark Ince with daughter Faith

At the end of February, Yvette Cooper MP and Chief Secretary to the Treasury visited Rowner, spoke to members of the Rowner Renewal Partnership and was particularly keen to spend time with parents at Rowner’s SureStart centre.

Ms Cooper was told about the problems of the estate back in 2005 as part of the making of a Panorama programme. Local resident Mark Ince with his son Kurt were featured on the programme which focused on “postcode poverty” and asked whether the government could fulfil its goal of ending this within two decades.

During her visit, Mark Ince with his younger daughter, Faith (2) met with Yvette Cooper to tell her about his views now, the progress made on the estate and the future plans for Rowner. Mark with his wife Rachel, Kurt and sister Faith have been keen supporters of the Rowner Renewal Project and have all participated in the public consultation phase.

Mark said:

“It was great to see the minister and know that in the past four years so much positive change has happened with SureStart, The Youthy and Siskin Schools. I also know that this will continue to happen in the future. My neighbours and my family are looking forward to the start of the new homes and a complete regeneration of the area and facilities.”

Seeing the Rowner regeneration plans for herself and meeting local residents, members of the Partnership, SureStart and Rowner Access Point, Ms Cooper welcomed the major improvements and work underway to help local families and improve the estate.

Yvette Cooper said:

“It’s great to see the new investment plans for the area. SureStart has already made a real difference for local families, but now we need to see much better housing for families to improve people’s chances in life.”

The Rowner Vision five year celebration

The Rowner Vision Group held its Five Year Celebration Event on 25 April on the Siskin School campus – just after outline planning permission had been granted for the Rowner Renewal Project. 80 children with their parents came along to try out their circus skills and enjoy the wonderful animals made by the balloon man.



Chair of the Rowner Vision Group, David Miles, Director of Gosport Voluntary Action highlighted the progress made in fulfilling the Rowner Vision so far – such as the new youth centre, the extended Nimrod Community Centre and the SureStart centre as well as the school community room. All these projects were campaigned for and supported by local residents and stakeholders including Gosport Borough Council, Hampshire County Council and Portsmouth Housing Association.

Everybody took part in celebrating the great news of the announcement of outline planning permission and after the speech, there was a rush for sandwiches and back to the circus skills.

Ten new members were signed as members to the Rowner Vision Group on the day and the next meeting was held at Nimrod Community Centre on 6 May.

For more information contact Geoff Phillpotts **023 9289 6793** or email **Geoff.phillpotts@phagroup.org.uk**

Easter crafts and quiz Day



Courts Zone Residents Group in Rowner, put on a day of activities in Exeter Court for over 50 children during the Easter school holidays. Not just in distributing Easter eggs, but also Easter baskets, egg cups and a prize quiz as well.

Using money from the group's own funds, they bought porcelain baskets and wooden egg cups for the children to decorate. After admiring the results, everybody split into teams of six to compete in the prize quiz which had questions on both Easter and general knowledge. All the members of the winning team were each awarded a large Easter egg.

To finish the day, 50 ribbons had been hidden around the Court while everybody had their attention on the quiz. Children then rushed to find them and swap a ribbon for a chocolate egg.

Nimrod Centre News

Family fun & finance day



At the end of February the Rowner Access Point organised a Family Finance Day to help tackle the surge of loan sharks operating in the area. Help and advice was on hand from Portsmouth Housing Association, Hampshire Savers Credit Union, Scottish & Southern Energy, South Coast Moneyline, Halifax, Gosport Borough Council Energy Advice, Gosport Citizens Advice Bureau.

Whilst mums and dads got good advice, the children were entertained with face painting, art workshops, dance displays, samba band. Children drew pictures of sharks with the theme of stopping the loan sharks. However, it all got a bit confused because the children in school had been taught about conservation and so wrote on their posters "Save the Shark"!

Jacky Charman said "It took us a while to work out why they had written it and it was very funny. The day was a great success and we plan to do more of them. In addition Hampshire Savers Credit Union now visit the Nimrod Centre one day a week to talk to residents."

Vote for Sophie – she's one in a million!

Hampshire County Council is really proud that Sophie Davis, one of their Accredited Community Safety Officers, is in the running for the prestigious Council Worker of the Year Award.



27 year old Sophie was nominated for her work with young people after founding a network of Junior Community Teams – one of which was in Rowner! The teams tackle low-level anti-social behaviour and make neighbourhoods better and safer place to live. Sophie's pioneering work won her £25,000 funding to start up a network of Junior Community Teams across the whole of Hampshire.

She needs your vote to make sure she wins – you can vote in two ways:

- Via your mobile phone and text vote:
- LGATV 4 SophieD to 80039
- Or via email by logging onto: www.thelocalgovernmentchannel.com/awards and click the "working with young people" category. There you will be able to watch a short film about Sophie.

The winner will be announced at a gala dinner on 2 July 2009.

Frequently asked questions and answers

When is the Rowner Renewal Partnership starting to build and demolish on site?

Following Gosport Borough Council's decision to give outline planning permission for the whole project, the partnership will submit detailed plans for the first phases. The partnership intends to submit these plans to Gosport Borough Council in June. If we receive permission to proceed we will start to build on site in the early autumn.

In the meantime you may see some workman on site for instance surveying street lighting and/or undertaking other preliminary work.

Demolition of empty properties is not anticipated until the end of the year but should whole court

areas become vacant the partnership may consider demolition in preparation.

What is happening to the rubbish collection and landscaping in the affected area?

The land is still owned by Gosport Borough Council (GBC). Therefore, all regular rubbish collections and landscaping tasks, including grass verges and court areas remain to be GBC's responsibility until the partnership has possession of the whole development area. Once Rowner Renewal Partnership takes control of the area all rubbish and landscaping tasks will be managed by the partnership. We will inform you when that happens.

Arrangements for Lindbergh and Balfour Close have changed.

We have a new arrangement with Wessex Property Services to clear bulk-rubbish from bin areas in Lindbergh Close and Balfour Close. The collection will now happen every Wednesday.

On Thursdays a cleaner will clean the inside areas, bin areas and will litter pick around the bin area.

Additional rubbish clearance will be undertaken by the estate officer on demand.



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

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