



2008-11 Settlement Announced

RENEW North Staffordshire have been successful in their bid to Central Government for a total of £114 million funding - an initial £40m for 2008/09 and an allocation of £38m for 2009/10 and £36m for 2010/11.

RENEW will also continue to support regeneration in Knutton and Cross Heath, Meir, Coalville and the social housing estates of Stoke on Trent, Galleys Bank, and Biddulph East.

In this issue:

Page 1 Settlement
Announcement

Page 2 Relocation

Page 3 New Staff
Member at
NBC

Page 4 Sports Village

Page 5 Knutton Village
Heritage Work

Page 6 Public Realm
Strategy
Staff Moving

Page 7 Down Your
Way
Questions to
the Editor

Page 8 Useful
Contacts

The figure is seen as a strong endorsement of RENEW's work from the Communities and Local Government Department.

The allocations for 2009/10 and 2010/11 are indicative and depend on performance and delivery. The final numbers will be confirmed in the January of each year and will be subject to progress in a number of areas. This includes how well RENEW levers in funding from other partners and link to other projects.

RENEW North Staffordshire will work through the North Staffordshire Regeneration Partnership to ensure that new and improved housing is complemented by private business, community and environmental improvements.

RENEW will spend more than 80 per cent of its funding in the 'urban core' of Stoke on Trent. This area has both the worst problems and the most opportunities to help transform the wider housing market, economy and image of North Staffordshire.

Urban core neighbourhoods include Burslem, Middleport, Cobridge, Shelton, City Waterside, Hanley, Northwood, Etruria and Stoke town.



Picture above: Hardial Bhogal

On hearing of the funding announcement, RENEW Director Hardial Bhogal commented, "Generally speaking this is a good and welcome settlement for RENEW. The ramping up of the grant to £40m for 08/09 is a big jump and determination will be needed from partners and stakeholders to facilitate the spend programme."

Hardial went on to take this opportunity to "formally thank all partners for your help and support in the Scheme Update which has led to this extremely good settlement."

On the Move

Aspire Housing is the delivery agent for RENEW North Staffs in the Knutton and Cross Heath Area of Major Intervention (AMI). Following a comprehensive consultation in 2005, a number of options were discussed with the community to influence the final plans for the area.

As well as bringing positive investment, an essential part of the regeneration programme has required the demolition of a number of properties. In relation to Lower Milehouse, Aspire Housing is in the process of clearing 188 properties with a view to redeveloping the area to create a development for more choice of housing in the future.

The process of requiring residents to move from their homes can be unnerving and upsetting. To date Aspire has re-located 83 residents and have dedicated two employees specifically to help residents through the moving process. This service identifies individual requirements and vulnerability issues, areas of choice and the actual move. Aspire Housing also arrange for removals, disconnections, mail redirection and undertake settling-in visits.



Picture above:
Vicky Riley carrying out Housing Needs Home Visit.

In their satisfaction surveys completed by all residents moving, only 1% of residents thought that some improvement could be made with the service (and their suggestions about a different way of organising the removals have now been adopted).

Mr Allman moved with his wife from Robertson Drive to Highfield Grange in Wolstanton. He was concerned about moving to different accommodation but said that they really enjoy where they are living now. The time Aspire Housing staff spent with them ensured that they made the right decision. Mr Allman said: "I would like to give the highest possible compliments to the way Vicky Riley [Aspire AMI Neighbourhood Officer] has conducted herself because I would not have liked the pressure of the move without her help."

In addition RENEW fund a Residents' Friend who undertakes an impartial role to ensure concerns are addressed independently. Age Concern also has been engaged to provide a befriending service especially for elderly residents to ensure they settle quickly into their new environment.

Mr and Mrs Taylor and their family have moved from Lower Milehouse Lane to Cotswold Avenue in Knutton. They say that Aspire Housing were really helpful in ensuring that their re-location went smoothly. "We have been very pleased with all the support Vicky Riley has given regarding our move, helping with queries etc. Also great support from Cheryl Pritchard [Aspire Regeneration Assistant] and Emily Tomkinson [CAB Residents' Friend]."

Spotlight on ...

Welcome to the latest member of the New Beginnings editorial team Alex Phillips, the new Housing Market Renewal Officer at Newcastle under Lyme Borough Council.

Alex joins the Borough from Beth Johnson Housing Association where she was Communication & Research Officer working in the City Centre South Area of Major Intervention.



Picture above: Alex Phillips at her desk at Newcastle Borough Council

Talking about taking up her new position, Alex is very enthusiastic about becoming involved in the area. "I look forward to joining the New Beginnings editorial team. The newsletter is an excellent way of conveying important news about the regeneration activities going on in the area during these times of change."

Regarding meeting local people who know what is happening in the area, Alex continued, "I also look forward to meeting with Street Reps and other residents over the coming months."

Alex added, "if any reader is interested in joining the editorial team, please contact Laurence Reardon by post, phone, e-mail, website or in person."

A Sign of the Times



Picture above:
Sign signifying start of building work on the Collins and Aikman Site, Lower Milehouse Lane

Visitors to Morrison's Supermarket can see that building work has started in earnest on the new Health Centre and Extra Care facility (Mill Rise) on the Collins and Aikman Site off Lower Milehouse Lane. Estimated completion time is currently Spring 2009.

The Borough Council is still working on the Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) for Knutton and Cross Heath which would allow planning applications for development of the rest of this brownfield site.

The SPD is being prepared in order to provide guidance for development proposals in the Knutton and Cross Heath area. It would establish a planning policy through a statutory planning document that can be used to underpin compulsory purchase action if necessary as well as setting out the key issues and development principles covered by the draft SPD.



Sports Village £17 m Investment - Flagship scheme taking shape

A full planning application for Newcastle under Lyme's £17 million Sports Village to be located in the area was considered by the Borough Council's planning committee on 15 April 2008. Work on applications for funding is also continuing, to be submitted following planning approval. Details have been finalised for the facilities that will be available at the complex. Building work is due to start in 2008 and the Sports Village is due to be operational in 2010.

Mark Barrow, the Borough Council's Chief Executive has said: "This could be the biggest single development that the Borough has seen in living memory.

It's a very exciting time which will see us move away from outdated and undersized recreation facilities in state of the art sports and leisure provisions for the whole community."

The proposal centres on land that forms part of Newcastle College's new £52 million campus off Knutton Lane. Construction of the new College will start shortly, as planning permission has already been granted for the new building along with a range of sports facilities to be used by students from the College and St. John Fisher High School.



Picture above: Image of proposed Sports Village



If the Sports Village gets the go-ahead in time, it will be incorporated into the College's construction programme which would mean the sports hall would treble in size and a swimming pool would be added – with all facilities open to the public seven days a week during day times, evenings and weekends.

Craig Hodgson, Vice Principal at Newcastle College, said: "We're very excited at the possibility of combining the new college with a host of extra facilities which would be open to the people of Newcastle. We are now supporting the Borough Council to get everything in place in good time to ensure that it can proceed as part of our new college development."

There will be a selection of first class amenities that includes a 25-metre swimming pool consisting of eight lanes, separate learner pool, a pool viewing balcony, an eighty-five-station health and fitness suite, a dance studio, eight court sports hall as well as nine other sports pitches.

There will also be a sauna cabin and steam room, which will include a rest area, a full-size floodlit all-weather pitch, a four-court outdoor children's play area, a sports science laboratory/class room to accommodate a range of courses and a café bar suite.

Andy Arnott, Sports Village Project Officer, said: "The drawings have been developed with key partners and staff have been consulted on how the floor plan will work.

No final decision has yet been made about the management of the Sports Village."

In March, exhibitions were held to provide images and information relating to the Sports Village, at Knutton Recreation Centre as well as the Civic Offices, Jubilee Pool, the Roebuck Centre and Newcastle College. Andy said that this has given the public, "the chance to comment on the plans. We have produced an information brochure with a freepost tear-off compliment slip. A dedicated website has been developed to be found at:

www.newcastle-staffs.gov.uk/sportsvillage"



Picture Above:
Heritage Work continues at Knutton Village

Did You Know?

Christopher Taylor Designs reports that a total of fifty seven properties have received renovation work as part of the latest Knutton Terraces Heritage Works project funded by RENEW and Newcastle under Lyme Borough Council.

Knutton Public Realm Strategy

I am pleased with the progress being made in improving the look of the large retaining wall leading down Lower Milehouse Lane into Knutton. The added railings and different vegetation is really going to make an impressive impact.

Lynne Bates,
Street Rep, John St.

Editor's Note: This improvement is one of several suggestions made under the Public Realm Strategy for Knutton, commissioned by RENEW and supported by Newcastle Borough Council, Aspire Housing, Staffordshire County Council and the Neighbourhood Management Pathfinder.



*Picture above:
Feature Railings on one of the main routes in and out
of Knutton*



Picture left; Lee Carroll from Beth Johnson Housing Association (right) finding out about the Knutton and Cross Heath AMI from Laurence Reardon (left) before he left the NMP.

Not an April Fool!

Laurence Reardon has been officially transferred to Aspire Housing on Tuesday 1 April 2008. Although retaining the same role of Project Officer, funded by RENEW, for the Area of Major Intervention (AMI) and the links to the Knutton Cross Heath Neighbourhood Management Pathfinder (NMP), Laurence will now be based full-time with Aspire's Business Development Team.

The change from his previous employer, the Knutton Cross Heath Neighbourhood Management Pathfinder, is covered by the Transfer of Undertakings Protection of Employment (TUPE) regulations. Laurence says that he expects the change of employer "will not affect the service that I provide to the residents in the Knutton, Lower Milehouse and Cross Heath AMI."

Down Your Way



*Picture above:
Last sight of the old AEI factory (taken from
the Wammy behind St Bernards Road) in
February 2005*

Rules

If anybody would like a copy of the rules of the Down Your Way Photograph Competition, please do not hesitate to contact Laurence Reardon or view the Photographs Page on our Website.

If any other reader has some images from the past, reflecting the changes happening in the neighbourhood, Down Your Way please contact Laurence at Aspire Housing.



*Picture above:
Celebrations of the Queen's Golden Jubilee in
St Bernards Road in June 2002*

Questions to the Editor:

Kay Rogers from Bake 'n Take, High Street, Knutton says that one of her customer has asked what is the future of the Knutton Enterprise Centre

Editor's Note:

During the Masterplanning process of 2005, the Enterprise Centre was not identified as being in need of clearance, but rather re-positioned, bringing it forward to front on the High Street. RENEW will be commissioning a report to look into the possibilities for the successful future of the Centre alongside the Knutton Recreation Centre and the School, once it has been vacated.



Useful Contacts

Newsletter Editor - Laurence Reardon

Aspire Housing, Kingsley, The Brampton, Newcastle under Lyme, Staffordshire, ST5 0QW

Tel: 01782 635200

E-mail: lreardonr@aspirehousing.co.uk

Website: www.knuttoncrossheath.info

Aspire Housing

01782 635200

Darren Green, Janet Rawlinson, Cheryl Pritchard or Vicky Riley.

To discuss Shared Ownership ask for Dan Gray

Newcastle under Lyme Borough Council

01782 717717

Helen Beech - Helen.beech@newcastle-staffs.gov.uk

Alex Phillips - alex.phillips@newcastle-staffs.gov.uk

Neighbourhood Wardens

01782 742515

nwarden@newcastle-staffs.gov.uk,

mark.jones@newcastle-staffs.gov.uk

RENEW North Staffordshire Helpline

01782 232024

Home Options Team

Mark Gee 0845 1302165

The Residents' Friend service offers independent information and advice about the Housing Market Renewal Programme.

Contact Emily Tomkinson, Residents' Friend,

Telephone 01782 408787

Drop in Tuesdays, Ramsey Road Community Centre, 1.30 pm - 4.00 pm.

Home visits are also available on request

This newsletter can be provided in alternative formats on request.

Please telephone us on 01782 635200