



Information Day

Residents turn Out to View Future Plans for areas in Knutton and Cross Heath

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Residents from all over the area attended information events on 26th June at local Community Centres to learn about work that Aspire Housing is proposing to carry out over the next three years, in partnership with RENEW



North Staffordshire. This work includes new estate enhancements, introduction of a 'decency plus' standard and a programme of clearance.

Aspire Housing continues to review its properties in terms of regeneration. The 'Decency Plus' standard will include work such as: off-road parking, patios, fencing and lighting to help make areas earmarked for regeneration projects more appealing places to live. Joint funding between Aspire and RENEW will see at least £1.7million invested in property improvements. Also displayed were RENEW-funded environmental improvements undertaken across the area, giving residents a full overview of the different types of renewal activity both past and in the future.

Darren Green, Aspire's Senior Regeneration Manager was pleased with the Information Day. "We will continue to engage with residents on a regular basis. The Information Day demonstrated the Partnership's successes so far."

In addition, staff from Aspire, Newcastle Borough Council, CAB and RENEW were on hand to talk about the support available for those families affected by clearance and how delivering regeneration activities to the Knutton and Cross Heath area fits with the Borough's planning context. If you were not able to attend the Information Day but would like to discuss the proposals, please contact Cheryl Pritchard at Aspire.

Frequently Asked Questions

A number of revisions have been made to the proposed regeneration programme in Knutton and Cross Heath and there are frequently asked questions that people need to know the answer. Here are just 3 questions but more can be found on our website <http://www.knuttoncrossheath.co.uk/faq.html> or by asking for the Frequently Asked Questions booklet from Aspire or the Neighbourhood Management Pathfinder (NMP) in Knutton.



Picture above: Arthur Boulton outside his former home on Robertson Drive just before it was cleared. He moved approximately eight months after his initial Housing Needs Questionnaire



Picture above: Arthur outside his new home in Audley. He says that he is really happy to have moved, has made lots of new friends and has found it easy to settle in.

Q.7 I'm an Aspire Tenant, what happens to me if my home is to be demolished?

- A. Aspire Housing has a statutory duty to re-house its tenants in appropriate alternative accommodation. Residents who wish to remain as tenants of Aspire Housing will be supported by Aspire throughout the course of their move.

Every effort will be made to match the preferences you identify, through the housing needs questionnaire, with homes that become available.

Aspire will offer 'like for like' accommodation, subject to availability in your area of choice and in accordance with your housing need.

In accordance with Aspires lettings policy, priority will be given to clearance transfers.

Q.10 How many re-housing offers will I get?

- A. Aspire's usual policy for transfers would be to make one reasonable offer of alternative accommodation. However in the case of clearance transfers we will make two reasonable offers, taking into account household needs and preference whenever possible.

Q.11 I can't afford to move, will I get compensation?

- A. There is statutory compensation of £4400 (amount reviewed periodically) for tenants of Registered Social Landlords (which tenants of Aspire Housing will be entitled to) for 'home loss', should they be required to move for clearance purposes. Further financial assistance will also be made available to cover removal costs and re-connection charges that you may incur as a result of your move.

Sports Village— Plans Hit Problems

Plans for a sports village have been put on hold, just weeks after gaining planning permission. Newcastle Borough Council had intended to build its £17 million sports village alongside Newcastle College's new campus on land off Knutton Lane.

However, the College will now proceed with its own £52 million redevelopment with sports facilities including four grass pitches, four-court sports hall, dance studio, fitness suite and a full-size floodlit, multi-purpose pitch. The new facilities are due to be completed by January 2010, which the general public will be able to use.

The Borough Council is still looking in to the possibility of a second phase development on the site, which could include a new swimming pool, although this is just one option being considered at present.

A joint statement, by Newcastle Borough Council and Newcastle College said that building the sports village at the same time as the wider development of the new Newcastle College had been:

“the preferred method of delivering our aspirations for enhanced sports and leisure facilities for the residents of the borough. However, despite significant efforts by all involved, this has not been possible. But the concept of the sports village on the college site is still an option which the Borough Council and the College are considering. There would then be an opportunity of a second phase development, with the addition of a pool and enhanced leisure facilities coming on stream as soon as possible thereafter.”

A Sign of the Times

RENEW North Staffordshire has joined the National Lottery, the Knutton Cross Heath NMP and other funding streams such as Fones 4 Schools and Bag 2 School, to provide Knutton St Mary's CE (VC) Primary School with The Breathing Place. This is a relaxing wildlife garden that can be enjoyed by the school and the whole community, situated beside Knutton library, created as part of the international Eco-Schools Programme, where children as young as three are being taught about recycling and the environment.



Picture above:
Eco Green Flag for Knutton St Mary's Primary School

The School became an eco-school during 2006 and has just become the first school in Newcastle-under-Lyme to receive their prestigious green flag for successfully completing the programme. Julie Heyhoe, the school's eco co-ordinator said:

“The pupils must be congratulated on their hard work and dedication in striving to achieve this award and their positive attitude towards creating a sustainable environment for us to enjoy.”

Extra Care

Work on the Collins & Aikman site, Lower Milehouse Lane is making progress and you may have noticed that the steel frame has been assembled.

Monthly progress meetings are taking place with the contractor, now beginning to look at Reviewable Design Data (RDD) for the scheme, for example window frames.

A 'Friends of Mill Rise' group (people who have expressed an interest in living at the scheme) has been established. The group meets monthly to get up to date information updates as well as having the opportunity to contribute to the decision making process on issues such as cleaners and whether pets will be allowed.

The group is considering becoming formally constituted to enable them to raise money for social and leisure initiatives. If this is something that you are interested in being involved with, please contact Suzie King, Aspire's Extra Care Project Manager on her direct line 01782 854904.



Picture below: Friends of Mill Rise looking at layout plans of extra care facilities for the elderly.

During the week commencing 9 June, Suzie spent some time with Year 2 children at Knutton St Mary's Primary School working on a time capsule project that will be buried beneath the piazza area of the development.



The children have already been guests of Mansell builders on a site visit so they are now familiar with the scheme. The project began with an introductory session explaining the nature of time capsules and asking for suggestions for items that could be included. There were various suggestions ranging from letters, photographs, school uniform, coins and a mobile phone to teddy bears, old shoes and socks to hair cuttings! Further discussion



Pupils from Knutton St Mary's showing items they want included in the Time Capsule.

took place and it was agreed that the items that went into the time capsule needed to be things that wouldn't perish and were:

- Relevant to the site, development and local area
- Relevant to the children involved in the time capsule project
- Things that were currently used on a daily basis which might change in the future.

Work took place on the project throughout the week which ended with an 'open' classroom on Friday afternoon. Parents, members of the community and the Friends of Mill Rise were invited to see the time capsule and work that children had completed.

Your New Primary Care Centre

Milehouse Primary Care Centre, Newcastle-under-Lyme, Staffordshire



North Staffordshire

Better facilities

As part of the Mill Rise Village, that provides extra care apartments for older people to live independently, a brand new primary care centre will be open to patients and residents of Knutton, Cross Heath and surrounding areas. The centre will offer the usual health care services plus additional ones to improve access to a wide range of additional ones including:

Podiatry (foot care), baby clinic, physiotherapy, phlebotomy (blood), pharmacy, new NHS dental clinic, outpatient centre, a base for community nurses plus other community facilities.

Investing in your care

Your new centre is part of a programme of investment by North Staffordshire's Primary Care Trust to improve services, facilities and standards of care for the whole community. If you have a query or a concern about health services, the NHS North Staffordshire PALS (Patient Advice and Liaison Service) team will be happy to help on 0800 389 8832.

For Mill Rise events have taken place to raise awareness about extra care housing and some multi-agency briefing sessions are being arranged in partnership with colleagues from Social Care and Health.

Work on developing eligibility and allocations procedures for Mill Rise is currently being undertaken. A website has been set up (www.millrisevillage.co.uk) so residents can keep updated with the latest news and a travel plan is being looked at.

Your doctors

Dr LM Hussain's Practice
Dr PH Shah's Hanford Branch Surgery
Dr PJ Franklin's Surgery

Who's who?

Development partner:

Prima 200 Prime plc

Building contractor:

Mansell

Construction Architects:

One Creative Environments Ltd

Extra care apartments:

Aspire Housing

Building milestones

February 2008	Started on site
Spring 2008	Steelwork complete
Summer 2008	Roof complete
Spring 2009	Building complete

Opens summer 2009



Text/Images above and right taken from a patient information poster being displayed in GP practices and other offices around the area.

Environmental Improvements

RENEW North Staffordshire and Aspire Housing have committed £75,000 to be spent on environmental improvements in the Knutton Cross Heath AMI in 2008/9.



Poplar Court bungalows before individual driveways have been created

Residents are urged to come forward with their suggestions on how the money could be spent to improve the local area. Projects should contribute to improving community safety, local facilities or the appearance of the area and must have the support of six households affected by the proposal. All proposals will be considered by the Environmental Improvements Project Group and scored against a set of criteria. Successful proposals will be delivered during 2008/9. The Project Group will respond with feedback on all proposals regardless of whether or not they are successful in obtaining funding.

This is the third round of environmental improvements funding provided by RENEW North Staffordshire and Aspire Housing with £500,000 of environmental improvements delivered between 2004/2006 and £200,00 delivered in 2007/8. A wide range of proposals was submitted by local residents and examples

of successful projects completed include parking schemes, installation of CCTV, security lighting and community gardens. The map below shows the areas that have received funding to date and the type of environmental improvement delivered.

If any resident has an idea for a project to improve the physical appearance or security of your street, you may be able to see your ideas become reality through the small-scale environmental improvements fund.

A tear off Environmental Improvements Proposal Form is attached on the back page of this newsletter. To submit your idea for consideration please read the guidance on the proposal form, complete and return it to Aspire Housing or the Knutton Cross Heath Neighbourhood Management Pathfinder by 22nd August 2008.



The alleyway between Cemetery Road and the Children's Centre was only of benefit to anti-social behaviour before it was re-surfaced and gated off.

If you require any help with filling out the form or further information please contact Janet Rawlinson at Aspire Housing on 01782 635200.

Funding Opportunity

A total of £200,000 will be spent by Aspire Housing and RENEW North Staffordshire on small scale environmental improvements in Knutton and Cross Heath during 2007-9.



Stanton Close after the bungalows have had individual driveways created.

Thirty-six proposals were received from residents following an application form being attached to Issue 5 of the New Beginnings Newsletter in March 2007. These were appraised in June last year by a project group made up of residents and service providers. The criteria used to assess the proposals included: visual impact, community safety and value for money.

Seventeen projects had been provisionally approved within the available budget to go out to wider consultation, although only 15 have been given the go-ahead. A number of other proposals put forward were to be included as part of the Public Realm Strategy for Knutton Village, with separate funding.



New railings as suggested by youngsters from the area using the Knutton Youth Centre.

WANTED FOR 2008-9

Residents to join the Project Group to help assess the environmental proposals submitted by local residents. Contact Janet Rawlinson at Aspire Housing on 01782 635200 by Friday 1 August 2008.

Improvements from 2007-8

- 1) Poplar Court - Window restrictors to stairwells
- 2) Meadow Lane - Security lights to rear of bungalows
- 3) Poplar Court - Improved car park and entrance lights
- 4) Church Lane - Railings at school crossing
- 5) Ronaldsway Drive - Fencing to rear boundary of bungalows
- 6) Moran Road/Camillus Road/Arthur Street - Gates between houses
- 7) Liverpool Road/Poplar Avenue - Fencing to rear of properties
- 8) Cemetery Road/ Children Centre - Alley gates
- 9) Knutton Lane/Arthur Street -Reinstate fencing at playground
- 10) Ashfields Court - Upgrade security lighting
- 11) St Bernards Road - Provide gates between houses
- 12) High Street - New railings at Youth Centre
- 13) Stanton Close—Individual driveways
- 14) Albermarle Road - Community garden
- 15) Poplar Close - Individual driveways

Play Time in the Cotswolds



The new Mayor leading the celebrations of the opening of the new Cotswold Play Area with pupils from Knutton St Mary's School.

The £80,000 play area, replacing an existing playground, has been funded by RENEW North Staffordshire, Aspire Housing and Newcastle Borough Council under the Knutton Public Realm Strategy. Record RSS the firm who made the playground equipment,

supplied balloons and goodie bags for children at the event.

Local resident Mrs Lewis who attended the opening event feels there is no better sound in the world than children laughing and enjoying themselves. "My children played on the original play area and I hope that the revamped one will inspire the next generation to exercise more."

Young people aged four to fifteen will benefit from an improved play area that has been created in their neighbourhood. The new facility in Cotswold Avenue, Knutton, was officially opened by Newcastle's new Mayor Cllr. John Cooper on 22 May 2008.

Children aged four to seven can enjoy a range of features including springy animals, a roundabout and swings. A Ridge-Rider rollercoaster, 'monkey bars' and swings are among the attractions for seven to fifteen year olds.

Questions to the Editor

"Will the 'Credit Crunch', which is currently affecting the whole country, have a drastic impact on the Housing Market Renewal (HMR) Programme in North Staffordshire? (asked at NMP Board Meeting- 15/5/08)"

Editors Note: Both Debbie Hope, (RENEW Programme Manager) and Mark Gee (Home Options Team) are both agreed. RENEW North Staffordshire was created because of a need to work in a failing housing market - to build communities with varied housing where people want to stay and live, and not move away. The credit crunch simply reinforces that need.

There will be an impact on how much risk developers are prepared to take but the longer- term vision and objectives have been signed up to by all partners who are determined to deliver according to the agreed plans. Although the details of delivery may have to be looked at again, the end result will be the same. (If anything, within a HMR pathfinder, as the public sector partners are available to help share risk, it may be that the private sector are now more willing to work in traditional areas of last resort).

Down Your Way Competition

We are back in time again for the latest photograph of “down your way”. Wesley George lives in Knutton and has sent in a picture of the Whaley’s Brick Yard taken on 6 August 1949. Wesley worked at the yard for many years until it was closed down in the 1980s. The Yard was shown in the photograph featured in our New Beginnings newsletter in December 2007

(located next to the white pre-fabricated houses built just after the War that eventually made way for the ‘new’ Acacia Road Estate. The site of Whaley’s Brick Yard is now the landfill site accessed off Brock way, Knutton. Wesley remembers that the workers brought in scraps of food to feed to the pigs that one of the owners kept on the site.



Wesley hasn't yet made up his mind where he wants to spend his £10 prize voucher presented for sharing his memories from down your way.

Whaley's Brick Yard, Knutton (1940s)

Do you have a picture hidden away somewhere which captures what it is or was like down your way? A gift voucher of £10.00 will be given to any resident who has their picture published. Contact Laurence at Aspire Housing with your picture or for a copy of the competition rules which can also be found on the photographs page of our website:- www.knuttoncrossheath.info

DID YOU KNOW?

Christopher Taylor Designs have reported that the estimated completion date for the latest phase of the Knutton heritage work project, funded by RENEW and Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council, will be at the end of August 2008. There is talk that there may be a Victorian Themed end of project street party.

Finished heritage housing facelift in Chapel Street, Knutton



PLEASE READ THIS LEAFLET AND COMPLETE THE ENCLOSED PROJECT PROPOSAL FORM

Please submit your completed project proposal on the form to Aspire Housing or the Knutton Cross Heath Neighbourhood Management Pathfinder.

If you require additional information, please contact Janet Rawlinson, Regeneration Officer, at Aspire Housing.

Please submit by Friday 22nd August 2008 to enable the proposals to be collected and considered at the next Project Group Meeting.

CONTACT DETAILS

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

Tel: 01782 635200
Fax: 01782 715498
Janet Rawlinson – Regeneration Officer ext 4837

c/o
Knutton Cross Heath
Neighbourhood Management Pathfinder
The Studio
Knutton Recreation Centre
Knutton
Newcastle under Lyme
Staffordshire
ST5 6BX

“Together we can RENEW North



Knutton, Cross Heath & Lower Milehouse ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT 2008-2009

SMALL SCALE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENTS IN YOUR AREA

Aspire Housing has been asked by Newcastle Borough Council to lead RENEW work in Knutton and Cross Heath Area of Major Intervention (AMI). Aspire Housing is working closely with the Knutton Cross Heath Neighbourhood Management Pathfinder to engage with local residents, businesses and partner organisations working in the area – to make sure all are given the opportunity to be involved in the programme.

As part of the RENEW North Staffordshire environmental improvements programme, we are inviting proposals from residents in the Knutton and Cross Heath AMI for environmental projects to be considered for the current year 2008/2009.





Knutton Cross Heath
NEIGHBOURHOOD MANAGEMENT



English Partnerships
The National Regeneration Agency



Useful Contacts

Newsletter Editor - Laurence Reardon

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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 Philips - 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