

Home *life*

Wandsworth Council's housing newsletter [wandsworth.gov.uk/housingnews](https://www.wandsworth.gov.uk/housingnews)



First homes nearing completion on the Alton regeneration scheme [page 12](#)

- Set up a housing online account [page 4](#)
- New app helps keep children safe [page 6](#)
- Action to improve air quality [pages 8-9](#)

Useful contacts

There is a range of housing services and information available on our website www.wandsworth.gov.uk/housing

Housing contacts

Housing Customer Centre

90 Putney Bridge Road
London SW18 1HR

Western Area Housing Office

Roehampton Parish Hall
Alton Road, London SW15 4LG
Housing hotline: 020 8871 6161

Housing Area Teams

Central: 020 8871 5333
Eastern: 020 8871 7439
Southern: 020 8871 7288
Western: 020 8871 5530

If you do not know your area team email: hms@richmondandwandsworth.gov.uk

Wandsworth Emergency Control

(housing emergencies, out of hours)
020 8871 7490

Home Ownership

housesales@wandsworth.gov.uk

Downsizing options

allocationteam@wandsworth.gov.uk

Landlords looking for tenants

privatelandlords@wandsworth.gov.uk

Details of how to make a complaint are on our website at

www.wandsworth.gov.uk/complaints

For breakdowns, leaks and servicing heating/hot water systems speak to your gas contractor:

■ For properties across the borough where heating is supplied by a **central communal boiler.**

Smith & Byford

020 8722 3431 or 0808 196 1791
CommercialServices
@smithandbyford.com

■ **Battersea, Central Wandsworth and Earlsfield** with an individual domestic heating system.

PH Jones

020 3657 0304 or 0333 004 2333
[wbcrepairs@phjones.com](mailto:wbc repairs@phjones.com)

■ **Putney, Roehampton and Tooting** with an individual domestic heating system.

T Brown

0800 977 8472 or 020 8786 1244
repairs@tbrown.com

To find out your gas contractor
020 8871 7040

Other council contacts

Adult social services

020 8871 7707

Births, Deaths, Marriages and Voting

020 8871 6120

Child social services

020 8871 6622

Environmental services (including pest control, private housing)

020 8871 6127

Finance (including council tax, benefits, rent, service charges)

020 8871 8081

To make a telephone payment: 0800 021 7763

Parking and Streets

020 8871 8871

Rubbish, recycling and litter

020 8871 8558

Report It App

You can report issues directly to the housing department through the council's app!

This is a quick and easy way to tell us about any issues with cleaning, gardening and maintenance on your estate.

Report it in just three easy steps:

- 1 Choose your location
- 2 Take a photo
- 3 Choose the council housing estates category

Once you've submitted your report, it will go straight to our dedicated estate services team to be dealt with.

Search for Wandsworth Report It on the Apple, Android or Windows app store

Find out more at [wandsworth.gov.uk/reportitapp](http://www.wandsworth.gov.uk/reportitapp)



Welcome to the summer issue of Homelife

With the arrival of Spring and the Government's roadmap out of coronavirus restrictions it certainly feels like hope is in the air. I am sure you



are taking the opportunity to get out and about more and see friends and family. It's vital that we continue to follow restrictions and enjoy these first steps back to normality in a safe way. Let's continue the strong community spirit we've witnessed this last year and keep looking out for our neighbours as we enter different stages of the pandemic. On page 11 we feature some information on how over 60s can limber up after lockdown and prepare for being more active again.

Council tenants and leaseholders can now set up housing online accounts. It's simple to do and once you have an account you can pay rent, make a housing transfer application, update your contact details and raise a non-urgent repair - all online. See page 4 for more details.

Air quality is an issue for all London boroughs and in Wandsworth we're pleased that Putney has been chosen for the next phase of the Clean Air Village project, joining Tooting which has been involved since phase two. Find out more - and about the extension of the Ultra Low Emission Zone - on pages 8 and 9.

I hope you enjoy this issue of Homelife. If you have any suggestions please contact me by email on hms@richmondandwandsworth.gov.uk.

Cllr Kim Caddy
Cabinet Member for Housing



Wandsworth Council Commits to Kick Start

Job Opportunities for Young Wandsworth Residents

The council has recently been approved by the Department of Work and Pensions to host an initial 18 placements under the Government's Kick Start scheme. Kick Start is aimed at 16-24 year olds who are claiming benefits to provide them with six months of meaningful paid employment. Jobs will be based in departments across the council and paid at the London Living Wage (£10.85 per hour) for a minimum of 25 hours per week.

On top of gaining high quality work experience and a reference, employees will be given additional training and support from the council's Work Match service to help them move into further employment at the end of their six month placements.

Vacancies will be advertised by Wandsworth Job Centre Plus, and also by Wandsworth Work Match: www.wandsworthworkmatch.org. Opportunities will be going live from late May, with jobs starting anytime up to December 2021.

Thank you for getting tested

Thank you to everyone who took part in the Covid-19 surge testing programme.

Wandsworth Council worked in partnership with Public Health England and NHS Test and Trace to deliver enhanced testing in response to a group of local cases of the variant first identified in South Africa.

Every positive case identified is another break in the chain of transmission and helps keep our community safe. Although the surge is now over, it's important that people continue to get regular rapid symptom-free tests and, of course, get tested at the first sign of any symptoms. Details of how and where to do this are on the website:

www.wandsworth.gov.uk/book-lateral-flow-test

Although Public Health England was pleased with the response to the surge test, there were parts of the borough where take up was low. If you have any ideas to encourage testing in your area, please contact us at wandsworthcovidtesting@richmondandwandsworth.gov.uk

Are you experiencing Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB)?

Anti-social behaviour (ASB) includes abusive and intimidating behaviour, vandalism, graffiti, begging, prostitution, drug dealing, antisocial drinking, dumped rubbish and nuisance neighbours.

To report ASB call the police on 101 or submit a report online at www.met.police.uk. In an emergency always call 999. The council's website has details of which council team to contact; see www.wandsworth.gov.uk/housing/council-tenants-and-leaseholders.

Please remember – unreported ASB is not known about and cannot be addressed so please do report problems.

National ASB Week

National ASB Week is planned for June 2021. Check the council's community safety webpages for information on what the council and partners will be doing for the week.

Online Watch Link (OWL)

OWL is a new communications platform commissioned by the council and the Met Police. Members receive crime prevention alerts about issues in their local area.

For more information visit: www.owl.co.uk



Housing online account

available 24 hours a day, all year round

If you don't have a housing online account why not go to our website to create an account now?

You can:

- view your rent, heating and hot water account and non-residential rent accounts with a link to allow you to pay your rent
- view and update your contact details;
- complete a transfer or housing register application then view your registered application;
- request a non-urgent* repair for your property or communal area and track the progress of it.

Create a housing online account today. Go to www.wandsworth.gov.uk/housingonline



* For urgent repairs such as leaks, issues with door entry systems or lifts and any other problems that need attention within 24 hours please contact the council in the normal way and do not report on line

Closure of post office card accounts

If you have a Post Office card account for receiving your benefits, tax credits or state pension payments this will be closing in November 2021.

From this date the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) and HM Revenue & Customs (HMRC) will stop making payments, including all benefits and pensions, into Post Office card accounts.

Anyone with a Post Office card account needs to arrange for their benefits and/or pension to be paid into a different bank account. You should receive a letter from HMRC and DWP in the coming months explaining your next steps.

The best way to prepare yourself for this change would be for you to open a new bank account. Most current or basic accounts from UK banks, building societies and credit unions accept automated payments for Universal Credit, other benefits or your state pension.

You have until November 2021 to open a new bank account. During current coronavirus restrictions banks remain open if you would prefer to open an account in-person at your local branch. Alternatively, many banks will let you apply for a new bank account online or by telephone.

If you are having problems paying your rent or any other bills and need support with this or claiming benefits please contact the council's financial inclusion team on 020 8871 8780 or by email to financialinclusion@wandsworth.gov.uk.

PLEASE RECYCLE RESPONSIBLY

Cleaners across estates are having to spend time sorting through recycling because items are dumped near banks or because large recyclable items – such as boxes – are not being flattened. This takes the cleaners away from their other duties at a time when they're continuing to work very hard to keep estates clean and safe for all.

Only the following items can go in your mixed recycling:

- Paper and cardboard (flattened, clean and dry)
- Glass bottles and jars (rinsed, lids removed, no broken glass in sacks)
- Food tins and drinks cans (rinsed)
- Plastic bottles, pots, tubs and trays (rinsed, flatten bottles and replace lids)
- Food/drinks cartons (rinsed, e.g. TetraPaks)
- Loose metal lids/tops

For more information, see: www.wandsworth.gov.uk/what-to-put-in-clear-sacks-and-orange-lidded-recycling-banks



EU CITIZENS LIVING IN THE UK HAVE YOU APPLIED TO THE EU SETTLEMENT SCHEME FOR YOUR FAMILY?

HM Government

If you're an EU citizen and were living in the UK by 31st December 2020, you must check if you need to apply to the EU Settlement Scheme for your children, even if you have already applied for yourself. If you miss the deadline, your children could lose their existing rights to things such as free healthcare and further and higher education in the UK. The deadline is 30th June 2021.

Do it online today
[gov.uk/eusettlementscheme](https://www.gov.uk/eusettlementscheme)

Each citizen to show with valid identification before don't need to apply

EU citizens

European citizens need to act now to secure their rights in UK after Brexit

The rights of EU nationals in the UK have changed due to Brexit and their rights will not be extended automatically. All adults and children that are EU/EEA or Swiss citizens and their non-EU family members must apply to the EU Settlement Scheme by 30 June 2021 to secure their rights, including the right to work, to rent a property or access healthcare and benefits in the UK from 1 July this year. Individual applications must be submitted for each family member and some people may need expert immigration advice.

Wandsworth Council commissioned Citizens Advice Wandsworth to set up an EU Advice Service to help EU nationals apply and advise them on their rights following Brexit. The EU Advice Service is free, accredited, and confidential.

To check if you need to apply and to discuss your individual circumstances, please contact Citizens Advice Wandsworth on 020 3559 2019 or by email euadvice@cawandsworth.org or on the Citizens Advice Wandsworth EU Project webpage: EU Project - Citizens Advice Wandsworth [cawandsworth.org](http://www.cawandsworth.org)

Building safety update

Window safety - keeping your family safe

Windows can be hazardous, particularly to unsupervised small children or vulnerable adults.

If your home has window restrictors to limit how far a window will open, it is important to make sure you use them correctly and that they are in good working order.

Restrictors must never be released other than to clean your windows. Immediately afterwards they must be put back into the correct safety position. You should never release the restrictors and open windows to their full extent just to let more air into your home.

You should avoid placing furniture or storing items under windows or on balconies. Children or vulnerable adults may be curious and unaware of the dangers.

If you are a council tenant, it is important that you test your windows to ensure that the windows and window restrictors are operating correctly. If there is a fault with any of the windows in your home, report it immediately and keep it closed until the repair is completed.

If you are a leaseholder, you are advised to ensure you have the appropriate restrictors or locks fitted.

If you have any questions, please contact your area housing team.

Fire safety in communal areas

There are a few things you can do in the communal areas to help keep your building safe from fire:

- Don't obstruct the communal areas, which often form the fire escape route for the block.
- Don't prop open fire doors in communal areas.
- Don't clutter the stairs, corridors and landings with personal items or things that can set fire easily.
- If you see anything in the communal areas that doesn't belong there tell your Estate Manager.
- Don't store flammable materials in cupboards that have electrical circuits.
- Make sure you put all rubbish in the bins provided – don't leave it lying around in the refuse area as this can easily be set on fire.

New app to keep children safe



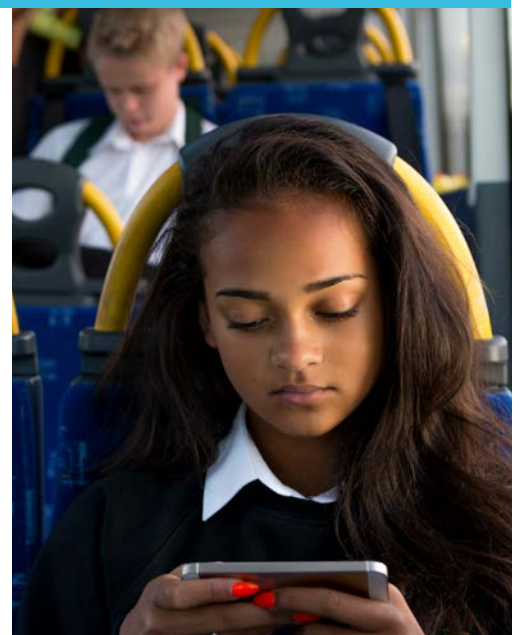
Wandsworth Council and Wandsworth Police have partnered with app provider Zecure to help keep children safe as they journey to and from school.

The app, which is free to download and use, allows children to alert emergency contacts if they need help by holding down a panic button or by shaking their phone. They can also inform parents when they have left school and arrived home safely.

Mikkel Dissing, CEO at Zecure added, "I'm a Wandsworth parent and understand the need to protect our children from crime in the area, I'm happy to help families in Wandsworth stay safe with Zecure."

You can download Zecure now from the app store. To register use the six-letter code specifically for Wandsworth: **WANSAF**.

Parents can also sign up to Wandsworth Schools Watch for personal safety advice, information and updates on safe transport routes. Visit www.wandsworth.gov.uk/owl-online-watch-link



Stay put stay safe

The Stay Put Stay Safe scheme (SPSS) is for people affected by domestic abuse and victims of hate crime.

The scheme is available to all residents of Wandsworth, not only council tenants but private tenants and homeowners as well. If you live in Wandsworth and are being threatened or harmed by someone who does not live with you, you do not necessarily need to leave your home. We may be able to make your home a safe place to live by improving the

security, free of charge.

Please be aware, conditions apply, and we will need to make an initial assessment over the telephone.

Two Wandsworth residents have kindly agreed to share their experiences of the SPSS scheme. (All names have been changed).

Jane, 35

I spent many years in an abusive relationship, and it wasn't until one particularly bad night when I made the decision to leave. I had to leave my flat and get help from Wandsworth housing and regeneration department. I was referred to MARAC and placed in temporary accommodation and eventually after patiently waiting for my settled accommodation the day came when I could collect my keys and finally have my own sanctuary.

Within three months of settling in I heard that my ex had found out where I lived - he had made me homeless once before

and I didn't want him to do it again. I contacted the council and explained my situation and they told me about the SPSS scheme. I thought if it's free and it makes me safe then great.

SPSS were so efficient - after I had been referred, they were straight in touch arranging for someone to come and look at my flat. I had a safe room, window grills and window locks.

That was over a year ago and I've felt happy and safe in my home ever since. They also put me in touch with Victim Support who were great and helped me look at injunctions I could take out to stop my ex from contacting me. We are in a much happier place now.

“ SPSS were so efficient - I had a safe room, window grills and window locks. That was over a year ago and I've felt happy and safe in my home ever since. ”

Lucy, 29

After many years in an abusive relationship, I broke up with my boyfriend and finally felt free. The break-up wasn't easy, and he didn't take it well, he kept on coming back to my flat. I heard about the SPSS scheme through a friend who also used the service, and thought that rather than leaving my home and moving the kids I needed to make sure we could feel safe and stay close to friends and family for support.

“ I can go to bed at night feeling safe thanks to the SPSS scheme and it didn't cost me a penny. ”

I contacted Wandsworth who went through the referral form over the phone, it was so easy and quick. They even took down a password for the workman to use when he came to do the work. Within a day I had been contacted by SPSS to arrange for someone to come and do a

survey to tell me what safety features I could have installed.

Within a couple of weeks I had new window locks, a safe room, locks changed and a post box on the wall outside as opposed to in the door, all for free.

Me and the kids have been able to stay at home, and I can go to bed at night feeling safe thanks to the SPSS scheme and it didn't cost me a penny. I would recommend anyone in my situation to use it.

If you would like to find out more or use our SPSS scheme, then please contact your Estate Manager or:

Email: landlordlettings@wandsworth.gov.uk

Telephone: 020 8871 7333

Website: [www.wandsworth.gov.uk/
domestic-violence-and-council-tenants](http://www.wandsworth.gov.uk/domestic-violence-and-council-tenants)

For information about Victim Support:
www.victimsupport.org.uk

Tackling the climate emergency

The Ultra Low Emission Zone is expanding

Have you checked your vehicle?

Air pollution is not just a central London problem, with many areas still exceeding the legal limits for pollution across the city. That is why from 25 October 2021, the central London Ultra Low Emission Zone (ULEZ) is expanding to create a single, larger zone up to the North Circular road (A406) and South Circular road (A205). The North and South Circular roads themselves are not in the zone. This is part of the commitment by the Mayor and TfL to help every Londoner breathe cleaner air.

The ULEZ will continue to operate 24 hours a day, seven days a week including weekends (except Christmas day), with a £12.50 daily charge for vehicles that do not meet the required emissions standards.

Cars, motorcycles, vans and other specialist vehicles (up to and including 3.5 tonnes) and minibuses (up to and including 5 tonnes) will need to meet the required ULEZ emissions standards when driving within and into the expanded zone, or pay a daily charge.

Four out of five cars already meet the ULEZ emissions standards, but we need owners of the remaining older cars, motorcycles, lighter vans and minibuses to take action.

Check your vehicle meets the ULEZ emissions standards and the interactive map of the zone. Visit: tfl.gov.uk/ulez-2021



Green Home Grant voucher scheme update

The Government's Green Homes Grant voucher scheme has now ended.

The scheme allowed homeowners and landlords to apply for vouchers up to £5,000 to cover two thirds of the costs of energy efficiency works including insulation and low carbon heat solutions.

The scheme was due to run until March 2022 but it was announced in March that it would end to new applications on 31 March 2021.

The council is continuing to develop plans of energy efficiency improvement works for its housing and is bidding for available grants. Updates will be included in these pages.

In 2019 Wandsworth Council declared a climate emergency, setting a target to be a carbon neutral organisation and the greenest inner-London council by 2030. We will be keeping residents up to date with the actions being taken and encouraging you all to play your part in tackling the climate emergency.

Carbon neutral by 2030 | **Zero Carbon by 2050**

Putney joins Clean Air Village project

Putney has been chosen to be one of the areas in London to take part in phase four of the Clean Air Villages (CAV) project.

The project is run by Cross River Partnership (CRP) in partnership with local authorities and other partners and aims to improve local air quality by reducing emissions from business deliveries and servicing. CAV4 started in April.

The scheme is funded by the Department of the Environment's Air Quality Grant, with match-funding from the private sector and partners including Wandsworth Council. The CRP will work with the council to reduce congestion and pollution by collaborating with local businesses to come up with potential shared solutions.

Phase four will build upon the previous phases of the project, which delivered air quality solutions ranging from multiple shared electric van schemes for local businesses and charities, zero-emission cargo bike schemes, dedicated Clean Air



Routes to help identify low pollution walking and cycling routes, and the CRP Clean Air Villages Directory of businesses and manufacturers offering deliveries, services and products via ultra-low emission methods.

The borough already has one Clean Air Village – Tooting was chosen to be part of phase two of the project. The project saw the roll-out of a successful cargo bike scheme to move business deliveries to zero-emission transport. Since then it is estimated that the bikes have made 403 deliveries that would otherwise have been made by car or van, saving 880 kilos of CO₂. A Tooting Clean Air Route has also been added to the London-wide map.

Inclusion in the CAV project is a boost to the council's work to tackle climate change. It has

pledged to be carbon-neutral by 2030 and a zero-emission council by 2050.

If you are a business owner in Putney and would like to find out how to save time and money while improving air quality, contact laurajacklin@crossriverpartnership.org. They would also like to hear from any businesses already using low emission delivery options.



Thanks and praise for Roehampton's community groups

Council leader Ravi Govindia has paid tribute to the many voluntary organisations, charities and community groups that have done so much to support the people of Roehampton throughout the pandemic.

Cllr Govindia said he was "touched that so many people have dedicated so much of their time and energy in supporting the most vulnerable people in this part of the borough. The whole of Wandsworth salutes their efforts".

He was speaking after the work of these local groups was highlighted in a series of BBC London broadcasts which showcased "the tremendous community spirit that exists across Roehampton".

Cllr Govindia added that he was proud too of the strong partnerships built between local organisations and council staff who have played a leading role in co-ordinating and funding on-the-ground support for some of the borough's most vulnerable residents during the pandemic. A range of voluntary sector groups have been given a financial boost

through Covid-19 related grants including Regenerate Rise, the Roehampton Community Capacity Project, Rackets Cubed, SW15 Music, the Play and Learn Café plus many more.

For more information on what these groups have achieved and to watch some of the BBC London broadcasts visit www.wandsworth.gov.uk/new/news-March-2021.

Cllr Govindia added: "The pandemic has been an enormously difficult period for so many in our community but at the same time it has highlighted the tremendous sense of community spirit and togetherness for which Wandsworth is famous. These are virtues we will be building on and strengthening in the months and years ahead."

Do you struggle to pay your water bills?

If you struggle to pay your water bill you may be entitled to help from Thames Water.

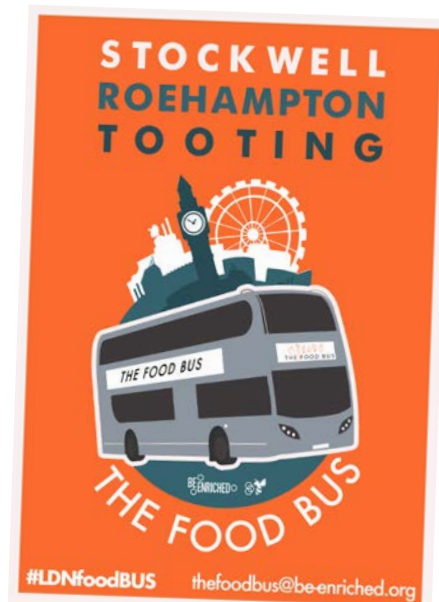
If you are on a low income (less than £19,747) you could be entitled to 50% off your bill under the WaterHelp scheme.

If you are on a water meter but find it difficult to save water because you have a large family or certain medical conditions you may be entitled to help under WaterSure. This caps your annual bill at the average price paid by other

customers; this year bills would be capped at £419. To qualify you must be in receipt of a means-tested benefit and either have three or more children living with you or have a medical condition which means you require more water.

There is also help for qualifying people already in debt through the Customer Assistance Fund which matches money paid towards debts, pound for pound.

For more information, visit www.thameswater.co.uk/help/account-and-billing/financial-support or call 0800 009 3652.



Wandsworth food bus

A new initiative has just started in some areas of the borough – the Wandsworth food bus.

The van and a double decker bus brings fresh produce, store cupboard items, cooked and frozen foods and freshly cooked food from the onboard kitchen for a fraction of the cost of supermarkets.

Emergency food provisions are available for free with a referral or onboard request to the team.

The bus has been visiting Roehampton (Tuesdays) and Tooting (Wednesdays) as well as looking for other good places to stop around the borough.

If anyone would like to know more or would like to request a stop please email the team **TheFoodBus** @be-enriched.org.

You can also find it on Twitter and Instagram - @**LDNFoodBus**

Limbering Up After Lockdown- Support to Help 60+ Residents Get Active

Most of us are desperate to return to some sort of normality after months of lockdowns and social distancing restrictions. But in one recent survey, 20% of older people said they feel less steady on their feet since we entered lockdown. Fortunately, local voluntary and community organisations are here to help. Here are just some of the activities on offer that can help residents aged 60+ to limber up after lockdown:

Hestia Age Activity Centre in Tooting offers a range of Zoom-based exercise sessions including seated exercise, yoga and Tai Chi. Age Well Roehampton, another Hestia service, will also be offering guided walks and outdoor exercise in the Roehampton Area. For more information, please email Jacqui.clack@hestia.org or call 020 8767 8426.



Age UK Wandsworth

offers Active Chats which combine telephone/video befriending with gentle seated exercise. As restrictions ease, those on the service may be able to meet their volunteer in person, go for short walks together and be introduced to local

group activities. For more information please contact exercise@AgeUKwandsworth.org.uk or 020 8877 8940.

Age UK Wandsworth are also launching their own walking football clubs this summer in Roehampton and Battersea. Call 020 8877 8940 to find out more.

The Katherine Low Settlement (KLS) in Battersea run a men's walking group in Battersea Park and a new riverside walking group. KLS also have regular chair exercise classes and Dance for Life Sessions. For more information, please contact Dawn, Lisa and Sarah on 020 7223 2845 or sarahg@klsettlement.org.uk.

The Furzedown Project is offering three outdoor physical activity sessions a week under a marquee. For further information call 020 8677 4283

Age Well Battersea, another service provided by KLS, offer residents a range of Zoom exercise sessions and will soon be offering walking sessions and self-guided history walks. To register your interest, contact Kerry at Age Well Battersea on 020 7223 2845 or kerry@klsettlement.org.uk.

Enable's team continue to provide weekly online Zoom classes that are open to everyone. Classes are taken at your own pace and are a great way to stay active at home. Enable also have several other programmes still available, details for these can be found on their website www.enablelc.org/healthandwellbeing/aboutus/

Enable has also partnered with the council's Public Health team to offer Active at Home packs for local residents. The packs include home workouts and adapted exercises suitable for people returning to exercise or trying it for the first time. Activity packs include skipping ropes, exercise bands, and beanbags, plus ideas on how to use them. Email activelifestyles@enablelc.org for more information

Wandsworth Community Transport

will soon be able to offer a range of outings including trips to the coast and shopping. Call 020 8675 7460 to find out more.

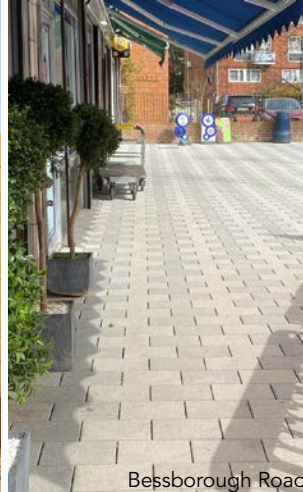


If you, or someone you know, is concerned about falling or are at risk of falling, you can make a self-referral to the St George's Integrated Falls and Bone Health Service by calling 020 8812 4079. Clients must be registered with a Wandsworth GP.

regeneration updates



New paving at Petersfield Rise



Bessborough Road

Bessborough Road progress update

Work is nearing completion on the site at Bessborough Road, which will provide the first contemporary, new homes for 10 families in the initial phase of the Alton regeneration scheme.

Residents will enjoy their own private garden or balcony and will have access to on-site parking, bicycle storage and a secure communal garden. Prospective residents also had the opportunity to choose the flooring and paint palettes for their new homes. All the new homes are fully adaptable to meet the mobility needs of residents, whilst one of the maisonettes has been designed specifically to meet the requirements of wheelchair users.

The development, which is expected to be completed later this summer, will also provide new homes for birds and bats, as nesting and roosting boxes have been incorporated into the structure of the building.

Local residents, shoppers and visitors to the area have also enjoyed improvements to the paving and landscaping on the retail parade at Petersfield Rise, which have been completed as part of the Bessborough Road development works.

Finance Director of Heanens Wholesale Meats on Petersfield Rise, Hayden Harbud, says: "In over 25 years of staring out of our window and looking at a rundown area of the estate, we finally have something very eye-catching, welcoming, clean and modern to look at. It has brought life into an area, that the shops and community will thrive on."



Can we do the double?

We are delighted that two of our developments have been shortlisted at the Inside Housing Development Awards. These industry awards celebrate the very best residential developments across the UK from the past two years.

Both Mitchell House, on the Winstanley and York Road Estate, and Stag House in Putney Vale are in the running for 'Best Affordable Housing Development'.

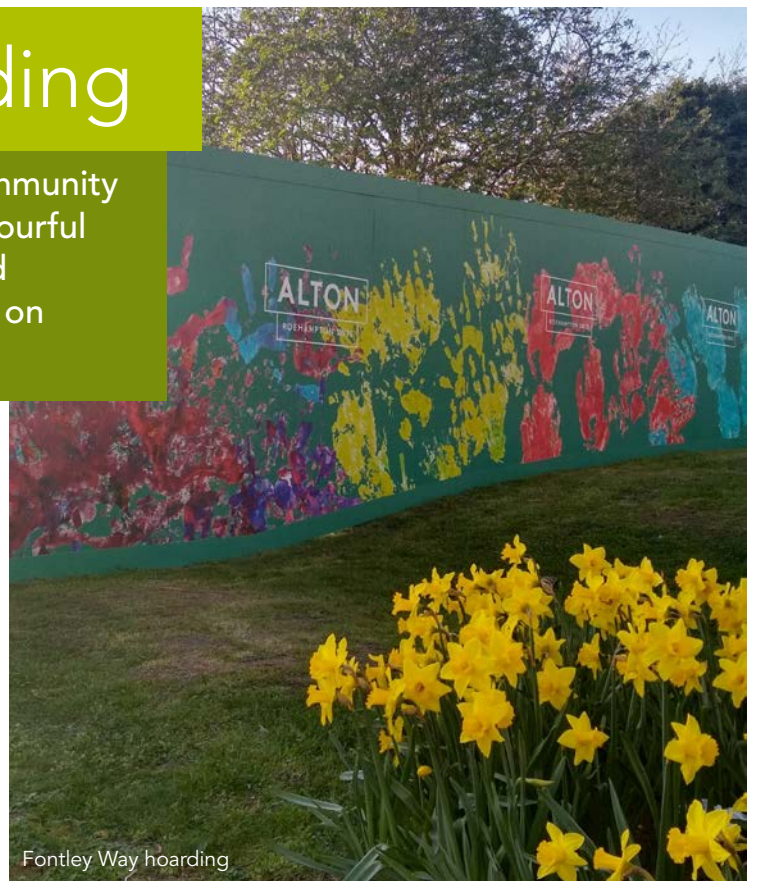
A significant number of homes in each development are wheelchair accessible and we worked with our own Occupational Therapists to provide contemporary, beautifully designed homes, all available at social rent.

Fontley Way hoarding

Children from the neighbouring Alton Community Playschool had 'a hand' in creating the colourful design for a vibrant new hoarding installed around the Fontley Way development site on the Alton estate.

The children, aged between two and four, spent a fun, messy morning painting handprints which were incorporated in the final design of the hoarding. It spans 40 metres and will enhance the area prior to and during construction.

The site, which was previously the home of the One O'Clock Club, has been boarded up whilst work on the plans for the development of 14 new affordable homes progresses. Planning permission was obtained in September 2020 and the team is currently in the final stage of the design process for the building, which will lead to the start of construction.



Fontley Way hoarding

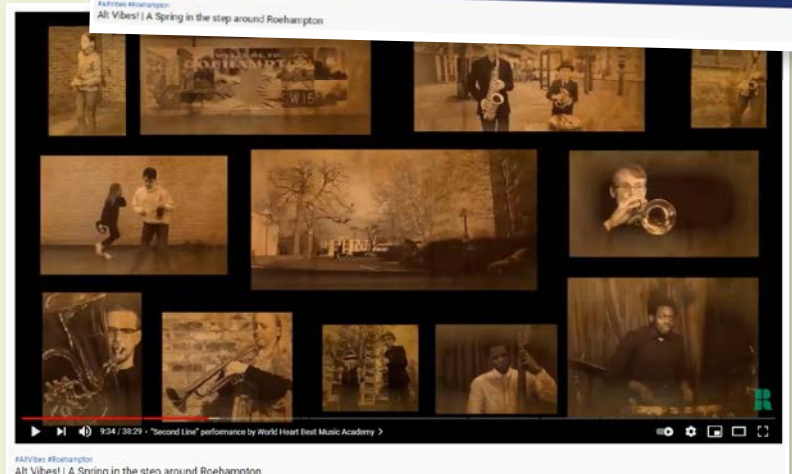
ALT. VIBES! FESTIVAL - a spring in the step around Roehampton

Spring vibes reverberated across the Alton estate in Roehampton on Saturday 20 March with a special online festival.

Due to the national lockdown, Alt. Vibes! could not take place physically on the estate as planned. Instead viewers tuned into an online event featuring performances from the London Samba School and the Second Line Band from Wandsworth-based World Heart Beat Music Academy. The broadcast included a short samba lesson so viewers could learn the steps and join in with the performance.

Funding for the event came from a successful joint bid by the Alton Regeneration Team and University of Roehampton to the Research England Strategic Priorities Fund. The event aimed to bring the community together following the impact of COVID-19 and the lack of socialising through 2020.

The festival is available to view on the University's YouTube channel – University of Roehampton - <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCL3tSDPQZAaPRVPAMY3N3zg>



Home Ownership Team

Improving purchase options for council tenants

Helping you to buy a home

The Home Ownership Team

The team have remained operational throughout the pandemic, successfully maintaining a high level of service whilst working remotely. In addition to continuing our telephone call service the team have also introduced regular live webchat sessions where visitors can ask questions and obtain help via an online chat facility. We will continue to advertise the webchat dates on our webpage.

House Purchase Grant Scheme

The council's popular cash incentive scheme was again hugely successful in the last financial year despite the ongoing effects of the pandemic. 49 council tenants successfully used their grants to move out of their council properties to purchase their dream homes either within the UK or abroad.

Breakdown of HPG completions in 2020-21

Open Market sales within UK	40
Shared Ownership sales within UK	1
Adaptations in UK	1
Abroad sales	7

The number of tenants interested in this voluntary scheme continues to increase year on year. Due to a high demand in April 2020 and beyond, we successfully allocated all the funding within a short period of opening the scheme but were able to release further funding throughout the financial year to enable even more tenants to benefit. Demand for the scheme is extremely high, so should you wish to apply you will need to complete one of our CSS application forms and contact the team to register your interest.

The government have extended the stamp duty holiday until 30 June 2021, which is great news for prospective buyers.

Eligibility

Tenants will need to have a minimum of two years secure tenancy and have a reasonable rent account and be willing to vacate their council property.

Current grant levels (for tenants who have at least three years tenancy)

Bed Size	Grant amount up to:
Studio or 1 bed	Up to £50,000
2 or 3 bed	Up to £70,000
4, 5 or 6 bed	Up to £100,000

Note: Grant levels are determined upon the outcome of a means tested financial appraisal. Tenants with less than three years tenancy will be offered a lower grant amount.

Grant Options

The house purchase grant can be used in a variety of different ways:

- buy a home anywhere in the UK or abroad (subject to maximum purchase price area price limits)
- use the grant towards adding accommodation (for example, an extension or loft conversion) to a family member's existing property within the UK
- use the grant towards buying a shared ownership property within the UK (to qualify for this option household income must be within the GLA income qualification criteria)

Last year a tenant successfully used the House Purchase Grant to adapt a relative's property and have now been able to move into their new home. Utilising the House Purchase Grant for this purpose can provide the tenant with support whilst maintaining independence.

To find out more about the House Purchase Grant scheme and to register your interest please contact the Home Ownership Team on the contact details below www.wandsworth.gov.uk/homeownership

Right to Buy

Right to Buy allows most council tenants to buy their council home at a discount.

Eligibility

Tenants with at least three years secure tenancy can apply by submitting a Right to Buy application form (RTB1) and will be required to provide supporting documents alongside their Right to Buy application.

Discount Increase CPI (Consumer Price Index)

As of 6 April 2021, tenants applying for the Right to Buy were able to benefit from an increase to the maximum discount increase in line with the percentage change in the CPI. The maximum discount amount is now £112,800.

For further information please contact: 020 8871 6161
housesales@wandsworth.gov.uk
wandsworth.gov.uk/homeownership

Please note that the discount increase only applies to those applications received on or after the 6 April 2021 and will not apply to applications received before that date.

Tenants who require more information about the Right to Buy should contact the Home Ownership Team who will be able to guide them through the process.

Shared Ownership

Shared Ownership gives first time buyers and those that do not currently own a home the opportunity to purchase a share in a new build or resale property.

The purchaser pays a mortgage on the share they own and pays rent to a housing association on the remaining share. As the purchaser only needs a mortgage for the share they are purchasing, the amount of money required for a deposit is usually a lot lower when compared to the amount that would be required when purchasing outright.

Shared Ownership viewings are still taking place; these may be held remotely or face to face. All viewing will be in a secure environment and adhere to COVID government guidelines.

Intermediate Rent

There will be a large number of intermediate rental opportunities within the borough over the next few years.

Intermediate rent offers the opportunity to those who are not able to purchase straight away to rent a brand new or refurbished home, or a home that is being re-let at less than the market rate. The rent is subsidised, with properties let at rents of no more than 80% of open market rents, with some intermediate rents being significantly below this level. As well as being more affordable, there is the reassurance that the home is built, managed and let by a registered housing provider. It is designed to give people a chance to use the saving made on the subsidised rent to save for a deposit to purchase a home. If you would like to register for this scheme, please complete one of our Combined Sales Scheme (CSS) application forms.

All our forms are downloadable from our webpage:
www.wandsworth.gov.uk/housing/home-ownership/home-ownership-documents-and-forms

For more information on any of the above schemes please contact the Home Ownership Team.

New Shared Ownership developments in the borough include the following:

A2 Dominion – York Road

York Road still has properties available at a new residential development on the bank of the River Thames in the vicinity of Clapham Junction. The site boasts excellent transport links with regular rail and bus connections into central London. The new homes will be let out on an intermediate rent basis at 80% of the ongoing market rate. Please contact A2 Dominion at a2dominion.co.uk/contact-us by email newbuildslettings@a2dominion.co.uk or tel 0800 432 0077



Optivo – Riverside Quarter / Waterway, SW18

A mix of one bedroom and two-bedroom units are still being marketed, ideally located on the banks of the River Thames with great transport links to central London, this development is perfect for young professionals. Please contact JLL on sharedownership@eu.jll.com or call 020 7852 4300.



PA Housing – Linton's Way, SW18

Linton's Way is a combination of one and two bed apartments available via shared ownership. Likewise situated by the river, these are modern properties with balconies and access to a private resident's landscaped garden. The prices for these homes range from £135,000 for a 25% share of a 1-bedroom home and £162,500 for a 25% share of a 2-bedroom home.



For further information, you can contact the sales team on 020 3394 0078, email sales@pahousing.co.uk or check the website www.sales.pahousing.co.uk/development/lintons-reach

community news

Introducing our newest housing community champion

Local tenant, Lynne Capocciana, from the Alton West has recently become the council's newest housing community champion in recognition of her hard work and dedication to her local community.

Speaking at the western Area Housing Panel, Sarah Stevens, resident participation officer, said: "Many of you may already have met or know of Lynne. Since the coronavirus pandemic Lynne has been helping local people in need. Lynne will often call me to discuss new ideas that she has and how she wants to help and I would therefore like to nominate her as a worthy community champion for the western area."

Lynne's achievements over the previous year include organising the singalongs that took place in some of the area's sheltered housing schemes as well as getting support from local businesses and supermarkets who donated food at the occasions; setting up a Covid-19 Facebook support page and a Q&A session about vaccines alongside Jonathan Palma; facilitating art across local estates including art at the MUGA



sports area of Witley Point. Lynne also turned on the lights for Roehampton's first ever Christmas tree with the Mayor.

The housing community champion scheme is designed to recognise those residents who are making a difference in their community through voluntary activities which benefit their estate and wider area. The scheme is also intended to provide enhanced opportunities for involvement, including for those residents who live in areas where there is no existing residents' association in operation.

Community champions benefit from regular support and advice from the resident participation officers, who assist them to develop their work, providing advice and guidance as necessary. This may include assisting community champions to apply for funding from the community fund. Other benefits of taking up the role include formal recognition of the value of their work and being able to attend meetings such as Area Housing Panels as observers.

Putney Community Gardeners

Another housing community champion has continued to make a positive difference to their estate. Rowan Salim, along with other members of the Putney Community Gardeners, recently repurposed some brick paving which was removed when the new Multi-Use Games Area at Witley Point was built. Rather than let it go to waste, the Putney Community Gardeners used the paving for some lovely small garden projects on the Ashburton South estate.



Spring flowers brighten up estates

Spring has well and truly sprung on estates across the borough.

The Lennox estate in Roehampton looks lovely with thousands of daffodils in bloom.

Every year the department's horticultural team plant thousands of bulbs across the borough's estates.



Your resident participation team

There are a variety of ways to get involved in your community and decisions about your housing.

Speak to your resident participation officer.

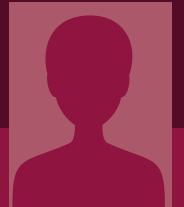
Southern Team



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Eastern Team



Lee Bushell
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Western Team



Sarah Stevens
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Roehampton Community Week

5th July - 11th July

Roehampton Community Week (RCW) is a new community-led initiative for Roehampton and West Putney. We're planning a week-long series of community projects and events across the area to help **bring people together** and improve our **community**.

And we want **local residents** to get involved.

If you have an interest in **gardening, planting, music, sports, arts, local history** or any idea that brings people together, want to volunteer or simply find out more please do get in touch.

Support will be provided and **funding** is being sought to help with projects.

We're stronger together

To get involved contact

Email: roehamptoncommunityweek@gmail.com
 Visit: www.roehamptoncommunityweek.com
 Call: 07498 455076
 Donate: justgiving.com/campaign/roehamptoncommunityweek

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This project has been created by several local residents and organisations

sheltered housing news



Support for sheltered housing residents during the COVID-19 pandemic

Keeping safe, maintaining good wellbeing and access to good food are key challenges faced by many vulnerable adults and sheltered residents during the pandemic.

Syeda Islam kitchen has been very supportive to our sheltered residents. The charity provides weekly hot meals to residents which has been a huge help to many residents at Carey Gardens during lockdown restrictions.

The hot meals provided by Syeda Islam kitchen are delivered to the sheltered housing officer at the clubroom and residents are invited to pick these up. Residents are delighted with the tasty food provided.

Syeda Islam kitchen don't only provide meals to Carey Gardens but also to a number of sheltered schemes across the borough. Residents and staff want to say a big thank you to Syeda and her team for their time and support during this period of uncertainty.



Free gas cooker lock

A locking cooker valve can help people with dementia or autism retain their independence at home and provides reassurance to friends, family and carers.

The simple safety device can be fitted free of charge to the existing gas cooker pipework. When the valve is locked, the gas supply to the cooker is stopped. This eliminates the risk of the cooker being unintentionally turned on or left on, and gives peace of mind to carers or relatives that the cooker can't be used when they leave the house or the room. The carer or relative can easily turn the valve on using the key when the cooker is required, enabling the household to continue to use their gas cooker safely.

To find out more, call Cadent Gas on 0800 389 8000.

New clubroom at Rambler Close

Residents of Rambler Close will be able to enjoy a new clubroom as soon as it is safe to do so.

The newly refurbished clubroom offers a more casual space for meeting and socialising. It boasts a reading area, comfy seating, a central meeting table and fitness equipment for residents and visitors to use.

Clubrooms are a popular place to meet friends or take part in activities. In lots of the borough's sheltered schemes they are the centre of the social gatherings where residents enjoy coffee mornings, afternoon tea, parties or just simply a place to read away from their own flat.

Prior to the latest national lockdown, a few residents visited the new clubroom and were all pleased with it:

"I like the clubroom layout and its new look" - Norma

"I am very happy with the new clubroom" - Robert

"A very nice place that feels light and airy for us to come together and socialise" - Vinnette.

Sheltered clubrooms have been closed during the pandemic but we are hopeful that residents will be able to start to enjoy them again soon.



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email: watch@wandsworth.gov.uk
www.wandsworth.gov.uk/watch

AD 1083 (2.19)

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Email: accessteam@richmondandwandsworth.gov.uk

www.wandsworth.gov.uk/telecare

AD.917 (2.21)



Griffin Primary schoolchildren take part in Projects Office 'daggerboard' design workshop

New route through rail arch designed

Residents and schoolchildren in Nine Elms got busy this spring helping to design 'daggerboards' to decorate a new railway arch opening up later this year.

The designs will be incorporated by the architects at Projects Office into the gateways to 'Arch 42' - one of the historic Victorian railway arches supporting mainline trains through Battersea. The new short-cut will provide a much-needed pedestrian route connecting Ponton Road, off Nine Elms Lane, with residents living near New Covent Garden Market and Wandsworth Road on the other side of the railway line.

Wandsworth Council's Cabinet Member for Community Services and Open Spaces, Councillor Steffi Sutters said: "People who live and work in the area have welcomed the news that this new quicker route is being created. The bright design taps into our local transport heritage while connecting communities on both sides of the railway line to the new Tube stations opening here this autumn."

Find out more at www.nineelmslondon.com/arch42

Large print version

Copies of this issue of Homelife are available in large print format contact (020) 8871 6800 or email: hms@richmondandwandsworth.gov.uk



Nine Elms family festival diary date

The one-day Happy Streets Festival is planned for people living and working in Nine Elms this summer, complete with live music, crafts and activities, pizza making and outdoor performances.

Running from 12noon to 6pm on Saturday 10 July, the area around Thessaly Road and Ascalon Street will come alive with free outdoor events for all ages. The festival will adhere to Covid-safe government guidance.

Check full details before coming along at www.nineelmslondon.com/happystreetsfestival



Community facilities: exercise and play trail investment

What's in store for Nine Elms?

All tenants and leaseholders in local estates including Carey Gardens, Patmore and Savona are invited to 'come along' and find out about Nine Elms' latest exciting changes, opportunities and cultural events ahead of the new Northern Line stations opening later this year.

The next evening community engagement advisory group (CEAG) meeting is on 23 June. Check the website to find out how to join in: www.nineelmslondon.com/CEAG