



Townhill Park newsletter Summer 2020

We have lots of news to share with you, including where we're at with building new homes, details of the activity happening on site now (and what's coming next), and how we're working with the SO18 Big Local community group to keep you informed and involved as the programme progresses.

We value your input and we're looking forward to working with you throughout the regeneration to make Townhill Park a place you are proud to call home.

Impact of coronavirus (COVID-19)

We very much hope you and your families, friends and neighbours are keeping safe and well at this difficult time.

The coronavirus restrictions continue to present challenges, and while we are doing our utmost to continue delivering frontline services, some have been unavoidably affected by the current situation. To stay up to date with changes to our services, please visit southampton.gov.uk/coronavirus, where you can also sign up to our weekly e-bulletins.

The good news is the decommissioning of 89-131 Rowlands Walk, which was temporarily suspended in March, has now started again and affected tenants have been supported as they bid for new homes.

Our Balfour Beatty colleagues, who are making improvements to Meggeson Avenue, have been able to keep busy on site by reviewing their working practices and following government rules on social distancing. You can read more about the road improvements inside this newsletter.

Consultation on future decommissioning order

We've been working closely with the SO18 Big Local community group and decided, after receiving their feedback, to carry out a new consultation exercise on the decommissioning order of some of the redevelopment plots.

If you live in a block that's due to be decommissioned, you will have received a paper questionnaire to fill in and return. But anyone who lives in Townhill Park can submit their thoughts, and get more information, by visiting southampton.gov.uk/townhillparkorder



New homes get the thumbs up

The regeneration of Townhill Park is an important part of our recently approved £144m programme to deliver hundreds of council homes in Southampton by 2025. Our new Designer's Manual (which our developers will use) will ensure the next generation of council homes are safe, comfortable, efficient, part of the community and a home for life.

And we've made a great start in Townhill Park, where on Plot 1 a total of 56 council homes (50 flats and six houses) are now finished and tenants are enjoying their new surroundings.

The flats at Roundhill Close benefit from:

- Solar panels installed on the roof of the block.
- Energy-efficient heating systems.
- Heat Interface Units (HIU).
- Regulated heating.
- A green roof on the fourth floor of the block.

When the new tenants moved in, we asked them to tell us what they thought of their new homes via a short questionnaire. Here's a summary of their feedback, which we will use to maintain the quality of the homes and inform the design of other plots as the Townhill Park regeneration work progresses.

90.5% gave their flat an overall satisfaction rating of 7-10

69% said the flat layout was the best feature

41% felt the balconies were a great benefit

74% told us they liked the communal areas

What's next?

Further site preparation work is due to start on Plot 2 (the site at the junction of Meggeson Avenue, Paulet Close and Townhill Way) at the end of this year.

To help speed things up, we plan to develop Plot 9 (Rowlands Walk, where decommissioning work is continuing) and Plot 10 (Copse Road, following successful demolition activity) in one contract. We are working to appoint design and build contractors.

We will, of course, share the designs with you as soon as we're able so you can have your say on the proposals.

What about the Village Green?

We hope to have design details for the Village Green later in the Autumn and plan to share these with you so we can get your comments.

To stay up to date with developments, remember to keep checking southampton.gov.uk/newhomes



It's all change as Meggeson Avenue gets an overhaul

Since starting work in February this year, we have implemented a range of highways improvements to benefit motorists and pedestrians.

The key features include:

- Resurfacing the carriageway of Meggeson Avenue and repairing the concrete base so that it can withstand heavy traffic.
- Resurfacing the footways on either side of Meggeson Avenue.
- Installing traffic calming features along Meggeson Avenue, including raised junctions, speed cushions, zebra crossings, new 20mph zone from Wakefield Road to Copse Road.
- Installing continuous crossings at several junctions, which prioritise pedestrians and cyclists.
- Improving access to some bus stops.
- Improving/clearing drainage in the area and installing 'future proofing' ducting to minimise the likelihood of roads being dug up again in the future.
- Installing mosaic designs on various street name plates/speed limit signs in the area.
- Creating a new car park at Ozier Road.
- Formalising the parking spaces near Copse Road.

As with many construction projects, we had to adapt our working practices as a result of COVID-19, but we're pleased to say the work stayed on schedule and we were able to create a safe environment for our team and the public.

We would like to thank you for your patience during this work and we hope that it helps to make a safer and more pleasant neighbourhood.

Creative residents make colourful road signs a reality

Townhill Park has received a brilliant splash of colour and creativity, thanks to the talents of local residents who got together and turned their hands to mosaic making in their spare time.

The designs feature on new road signs installed by principal contractor Balfour Beatty during the Meggeson Avenue improvements. Each mosaic – inspired by flowers, birds and animals common to the Townhill Park and Harefield areas – has been painstakingly digitised so they could be transferred to the road signs with every detail intact.

SO18 Big Local commissioned Will Rosie, the guerrilla artist responsible for Southampton's infamous Mr Men mosaics across the city, to help residents create a themed "Mosaic Way". The aim of the project was to bring the community together and enable them to put a distinctive stamp on the place they're proud to call home.

The result, in addition to the road signs, is a fantastic 60-mosaic trail, which has brightened up the streets and provides interest on residents' daily walks. The full map of locations can be found at [SO18biglocal.org.uk/mosaic-way](https://www.so18biglocal.org.uk/mosaic-way).

Take a moment to have a look at the mosaics the next time you're passing!





Townhill Park Community Art Gallery now on display

It isn't just mosaics that have popped up across Townhill Park over the last few months!

Many of you will have seen the new artwork on the site hoardings along Meggeson Avenue, which has created a wonderful gallery organised by SO18 Big Local and the council's Junior Neighbourhood Wardens.

We'd like to thank all the local artists, schools, scout and guide groups, residents' associations and other local community groups who have all joined in. You've certainly let your creative juices flow and we hope you're proud to see your efforts on display.

Stay tuned as we'll be awarding prizes for the best creations soon...

Working at the heart of the community

Community engagement continues to play a key role in ensuring the regeneration of Townhill Park is delivered smoothly by working with residents and new families to help them feel at home in the neighbourhood.

We first consulted with everyone about the plans in 2012 and have been working closely with the SO18 Big Local community group ever since. The group (which covers Harefield and Midanbury, as well as Townhill Park) uses £1m from the Big Lottery Fund to make a lasting positive difference to the area. The project is resident-led – what they do is driven by what people in these areas tell them their priorities are.

The group runs community activities, offers health and wellbeing support, helps people learn new skills, and provides an effective communication channel between us and you. For more information visit so18biglocal.org.uk.

Get more information about the regeneration

Finally, you don't need to wait for the next edition of this newsletter to get the latest on the regeneration programme. You can:

1. Sign up to receive Tenants' Link, our monthly e-bulletin designed especially for tenants and leaseholders, direct to your inbox by registering your details at southampton.gov.uk/tenantslink
2. Visit our website at southampton.gov.uk/newhomes where you can read background information, see how the programme is progressing, and look inside the new homes we've recently completed via some specially created 360-degree videos.
3. Get advice about renting privately, if you live in Townhill Park and you're not a council tenant. Our website has advice about viewing properties, tenancy agreements and what to do before you move in. To find out more visit southampton.gov.uk/housing