Welcome

Welcome to the Spring edition of the Pennywell and Muirhouse Regeneration newsletter.

These newsletters are designed to update you on the regeneration of Pennywell and Muirhouse and the surrounding area.

We are committed to keeping the local community and other stakeholders informed, and we thank you for your patience and understanding as we continue to make progress.

Our project team is always available to answer any questions you might have. Drop us an email to housingregeneration@edinburgh.gov.uk

Regeneration Projects in Pennywell

The build programme to deliver around 773 new homes for sale and rent in Pennywell and Muirhouse started in 2014. This programme stretches down Pennywell Road from Ferry Road to Muirhouse Parkway. Phase 1 and 2 are complete with all homes occupied and phase 3 is now underway. The regeneration plans were extended in 2017 to include the new Town Centre area which will bring an additional 148 homes for rent alongside 13 new retail units, and a large public square. This replaces Muirhouse shopping centre which is undergoing phased demolition.

The phases currently under development are shown below and include the Town Centre area (blue) and phase 3 of new homes (yellow). The area shown in pink will bring student housing to the area and is being delivered through a local private developer.

Pennywell Town Centre

Pennywell Town Centre will be constructed in phases to allow as many shops as possible to stay open while the works are being carried out.

The new square, Macmillan Square (see visual) will form part of the town centre and officially opens at the end of 2022 when all surrounding construction works are complete. The square is named after Maureen MacMillan, 1937-2002, a community activist who dedicated her life to improving the Muirhouse area particularly for young people and those unable to speak up for themselves.

The hoarding which is currently along the shop front between the Pennywell Road and North Edinburgh Arts will soon be removed allowing pedestrian access to the square.

We’ve completed 12 new homes in the square alongside three new retail units which will open soon and be occupied by:

- McColls
- Lloyds Pharmacy and
- Whitecross Dental

Next phases of the Town Centre

The next phase of development will be between the former Ladbrokes to the remainder of the Gunner. Once all units are empty, demolition will begin, followed by the construction of 40 new homes and 7 retail units. This phase is expected to take approximately 18 months. Ali’s chip shop has now closed but will return once this phase has completed, which is expected to be late 2020.
Renting or buying a new home in Pennywell

Properties will be available soon, if you would like information on
- mid-market rent homes please visit www.rightmove.co.uk
- social rent visit www.keytochoice.com and
- information on private homes for sale visit www.urbanunionltd.co.uk

New homes in phase 3

We are currently preparing the site for Phase 3 which is located on the land behind the town centre area where we’re building around 315 new homes. This phase includes 175 flats and 140 houses - 181 will be for rent and 134 for private sale.

Planned road closures at Muirhouse Avenue

Urban Union has recently started work on a section of Phase 3, located at Muirhouse Avenue. As part of the construction works, there will be several phased road closures (see map) to allow the utility companies to carry out necessary works.

Urban Union will let residents know the dates of the road closures once confirmed. They will also do their best to ensure that disruption to residents is kept to a minimum. If you have any questions relating to road closures, please contact the North West Locality Office on 0131 529 5050.

Walking Routes at Muirhouse Avenue

Staying Safe near Construction Sites!

Although you may think there are no dangers when you look at a building site, it doesn’t mean it is safe! NEVER access a building site without authorisation. If you see anyone trying to access the site, please report this to the North West Locality Office immediately on 0131 529 5050 during working hours or email northwest.locality@edinburgh.gov.uk.

Staying safe near construction sites is everyone’s responsibility.
Modernising existing Council homes

In 2017/18 the Council spent £53 million on upgrading homes across the city.

External refurbishment works are planned for multi storey and low-rise blocks, full consultations will be carried out with tenants and owners. The kitchen and bathroom replacement programme, heating upgrades and window replacement will also continue to be rolled out across the area.

We’ve already started work to modernise kitchens, bathrooms, heating systems, external building improvements, new door entry systems and new windows. Here’s how Muirhouse Gardens looked, before and after

If you would like more information on the existing housing modernisation programme, please email stuart.baird@edinburgh.gov.uk or call 0131 529 3071.

Community Benefits

Urban Union is the developer appointed to deliver housing in Phases 1-4 at Pennywell. Robertson Partnership Homes is the contractor for Pennywell Town Centre. Both companies are committed to providing meaningful real-life opportunities to the local communities in which they work.

They have a dedicated team of Community Development Advisors, who work with local community groups, employability services, schools, colleges and universities to maximise engagement opportunities which support the community and provide learning experiences to enhance and support the education of children, young people and adults.

To date, the companies have created employment opportunities and undertaken a variety of engagement activities with local primary schools, high schools, colleges and community-based groups in the North Edinburgh area. They have also supported many local projects and initiatives by offering unused or unwanted site materials or financial donations that have enhanced or developed local priorities and needs.

Below are some development achievements to date.

Robertson Partnership has arranged an engagement activity for pupils from Craigroyston High School – ten female pupils made a site visit at the Town Centre development. The pupils were given a site induction, which focussed on the importance of health and safety, an overview of the development, and a tour of block 2. They also took part in a selection of trade taster sessions - bricklaying, scaffolding, joinery and roofing trades. At the end of the visit, the pupils were then given the opportunity to quiz the project team about the development.

"Really great trip! So inspirational and really enjoyable!"

"I loved it; it was fun when we were on the scaffolding!"

"I love it the people were nice; it was a good experience with my friends"

Both companies are developing more activities such as designing art work for the hoarding surrounding the sites in Pennywell If you would like to get involved or would like further information on Community Benefits, please contact community.development@robertson.co.uk or info@urbanunionltd.co.uk

Urban Union and Robertson Partnership Homes also work with charities and local schools to offer education and work experience, if you would like more details please email community.development@robertson.co.uk.

Employment opportunities

Since work began on site in 2012, there have been opportunities for local people to get a job with our developers. This is something that both companies are committed to throughout the build programme. Email community.development@robertson.co.uk for more details.
Community highlight: Forthview Primary School parents become authors

A book encouraging children to talk about anxiety was written by Edinburgh primary school parents to mark Children’s Mental Health Week launched in February at the National Library of Scotland.

‘No Worries’ tells the tale of a group of primary school children going on school camp, each facing and overcoming their different anxieties. Each of the eight characters’ stories was developed by a parent drawing on their own experiences.

The parents, from Forthview Primary School, were helped in their venture through a series of writing workshops with author Mary Turner Thomson and used money from the school’s Pupil Equity Funding to publish the book with WhiteWater Publishing Ltd.

At the launch, Councillor Alison Dickie said: ‘What a wonderful resource! I’ve been really moved reading ‘No Worries’ as it uses simple language and scenarios that children understand to convey a crucial message about the importance of talking about our feelings and anxieties.

“As a former teacher, I understand how challenging it can be for young people to deal with their worries, and how alone they can feel. This children’s book helps them to find their own voice and to have that first, sometimes very difficult, opening conversation. All children should read this book!”

Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Education John Swinney, who also attended the launch, said: “Pupil Equity Funding is empowering teachers to put in place creative new initiatives to tackle the attainment gap in their schools.

“This is a great resource which starts to teach children how to handle anxiety in a way they can understand and relate to and I hope it will be put to good use. By giving our young people the right knowledge and understanding about emotional and mental wellbeing we can help to ensure important conversations about mental health become an everyday part of life.”

Children’s colouring competition – WIN £20 cinema voucher!

Why not enter our colouring competition for a chance to win a £20 cinema voucher! Just colour in the picture and drop it off at: North West Locality Office by the deadline date of 27 May 2019. Good luck!

Name: .................................................................
Age: .................................................................
Tel/Email: ............................................................

WIN one of two £20 shopping vouchers with our word search!

Can you find the hidden word?

If you can there is a chance to win 1 of 2 shopping vouchers. Complete the puzzle and drop off at the North West Locality Office by the deadline date of 27 May 2019. Good Luck!

Name: .................................................................
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Affordable Build Community Family Happy Pennywell Pride Robertson Shops Urban Union

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