My Ockford Ridge

Winter 2022



Festive Wishes from Waverley Borough Council

This year has been an incredibly challenging year for everyone, not just in Waverley, but throughout the country. Many people may have worries and concerns about what 2023 might bring at home, but I would like to assure people that everyone here at Waverley Borough Council are working as hard as we can to try to alleviate some of the pressures people are facing across the borough.

One of the ways in which we have tried to do this is of course through development of Ockford Ridge, a project dedicated to providing high quality affordable housing to our residents.

Laurel Close was completed earlier this year, adding a cul-de-sac of well designed, well insulated homes which we hope will lessen the impact of of fluctuating energy prices on our residents. We're proud of what has been accomplished in terms of the high quality of housing produced and it's great to be able to welcome new tenants to Ockford Ridge with these homes.

The moment that Laurel Close was completed, our contractor, Thakeham Homes, began work on Site C just around the corner. We're especially keen that the development of Ockford Ridge is completed as soon as possible, not only because of our duty to our residents, but because it's always a joyous occasion to provide homes like these to people that need them in our community!

On behalf of Waverley Borough Council and all of our members of staff, I wish you a wonderful festive season and that 2023 is everything you could hope for.

Andrew Smith
Executive Head of Housing



Waverley BOROUGH COUNCIL

More new homes underway despite the snow!

As reported in our Summer Edition of MyOckford Ridge, Thakeham Homes were chosen as our preferred contractor and the council have entered into contract with them for the next phase of development. The agreement with Thakeham is to deliver 18 houses and 12 new flats for affordable rent, including a number of shared ownership homes. Foundation works are ongoing, with timber frames starting to be delivered in January 2023 and brickwork commencing February 2023.

For help or information about the site and its management please contact Thakeham Resident Liaison Officer, Cecilia Taylor, email cecilia.taylor@thakeham.com or phone on 07918 604997.



Teaching about Biodiversity

An important part of our investment in the estate through the community benefit programme is the delivery of Eddie & Ellie Workshops by Thakeham Homes. Local pupils at St Marks and All Saints primary school are learning about ecology and biodiversity in a fun way through this award winning initiative- the 2022 CIRIA Community Engagement Award for The BIG Biodiversity Challenge Awards. These workshops will continue throughout next year and a return visit to the Wildlife Trust Education Centre is planned for next year.



Cost of Living Support

We know that many people will be struggling due to the cost of living crisis this year, which is why Waverley Borough Council have created a dedicated webpage to make residents aware of the help available. This includes help with home and energy costs, housing and Council Tax support as well as a range of sources for financial and other advice and support.

If you're struggling this winter, please do take some time to see if you may be eligible for one of the many schemes and funds available by visiting www.Waverley.gov.uk and clicking on the 'Cost of Living Support' banner at the top of the homepage.

More success from SATRO

Waverley's Community Development Officer, Kate Douglas reports on more good work funded through the community benefit programme at Ockford Ridge.

The Covid Pandemic was difficult for everyone, but children and young people have been particularly affected. Young people have missed out on opportunities to learn and socialise with others and often their confidence and certainty in the future has been shaken.

We're very pleased with the work that SATRO, a local education charity, has been doing with local schools to mentor students who can benefit from the type of support they offer.

Mo Forgan from SATRO said: **"We work with students who are most likely to benefit from a 'critical friend', a mentor, who can listen to them, allow them to talk about their plans and hopes, and then help them come up with their own solutions. Mentoring support helps young people think about their futures and make good choices."**

Kerry Wilson, Mentor programme coordinator at Rodborough School said: **"Students have benefitted from improved organisational skills, confidence in speaking to adults, help with deciding on their work experience, setting their aims for the future, and generally having a neutral adult who takes an individual interest in them who they can talk to."**

The Waverley/Rodborough programme started its second year in September 2022 and will be expanding this year.

Laurel Close's summer sign off

The official opening of Site B (Laurel close) was held earlier this year over the summer. Its completion brings to a close the second site completed on the Ockford Ridge regeneration programme by Thakeham Homes. This development delivered 17 modern, high quality affordable homes for residents of Waverley.



Planting strong roots in our community

Eashing Cemetery Community Garden and Orchard is a joint initiative between Waverley Borough Council, Godalming Town Council, Thakeham, COPSE Community Orchard Project South East and Roots for the Future. The garden and orchard symbolise the wider regeneration of the estate and how all the partners are working together to help to create a stronger, lasting sense of community for residents and their visitors alike. Through this project, we can all enjoy the new trees, wildflowers and the Garden in the cemetery.

Since the launch, there have been monthly Saturday community days and opportunities to meet on Wednesday evenings every other week. The local schools, Brownies, Guides, Rainbows, Cubs, corporate teams have all been digging in!

A line of 12 Walnut Trees, donated by Thakeham, through the community benefit programme were planted on 26th November by volunteers and partners. Representatives from the Muslim Community gave advice and guidance on appropriate fruit trees to plant on the Muslim Burial Area. There was also a drawing competition, with children getting the opportunity to help us design the garden's logo too! There were some lovely entries which will be displayed on a new banner. More on this in the next edition.



Volunteer Dates for your Diaries 2023

If you'd like to get stuck in with our volunteers and take part in some community gardening, why not join us? Our planned volunteer dates are:

- Saturday 26th March community garden event
- Saturday 14th May community garden event
- Volunteers needed every other Wednesday evening from 15th March until 25th October



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