My Ockford Ridge

Summer 2023



Warm wishes from us now that Summer is here.....

We know that 2023 is a challenging year for residents with cost of living and energy costs still high. At Waverley Borough Council we are working hard to take some of the pressure off.

Providing good quality affordable homes plays a key part, as does bringing down energy costs for us and our residents. So it makes sense to be building well designed, well insulated homes, and this year we are working on another 30 new homes at Ockford Ridge, as well as a retrofit project of the existing council owned properties.

Site C, being delivered by our build contractor, Thakeham Partnerships Ltd, will have 18 houses and 12 flats when it is finished for social, affordable rent and shared ownership. The plan is for all these homes to be net zero in operation to help with our climate change targets.

The retrofit is another challenging project, involving the refurbishment of 7 council owned houses. Its being managed by Niblock Construction Ltd. These homes will be handed over in phases with the final homes expected Spring 2024.

The retrofit will help the council deliver more energy efficient homes, with air source heat pumps, solar panels, improved insulation and new energy efficient windows being put in.

In this edition of My Ockford we feature updates on our community benefit scheme and ask for your support in our 'keeping memories alive' project. We celebrate a new trim-trail at St Mark and All Saints Primary School and a new bench from Skillway at the Orchard. Thakeham share their news about the BIG Biodiversity Challenge and we share some great news about the Surrey Building Control Awards! We also invite you to a 'meet the contractor' event.

Thank you for your support as we build and refurbish these new homes. Hopefully you get to enjoy some much needed warmth in our Orchard now that summer is here.

Andrew Smith
Executive Head of Housing



Waverley
BOROUGH COUNCIL

Ockford Ridge Site C - 30 new affordable homes

The official ground-breaking ceremony for Site C was held in December 2022. It was attended by the Mayor of Waverley, Waverley Borough Council's Co-Portfolio Holder for Housing, Waverley Borough Council Housing Development Team and Thakeham Partnerships Ltd. This started the digging in and laying of foundations for Site C.

Since then work has continued at pace with 80% of the timber frames now in place and plumbing, electrical, carpentry and dry lining now happening.

The block of flats is having its timber frame installed and the scaffolding is coming down on the first homes. The outside of the homes will be worked on during the summer. Thakeham Partnerships Ltd plan to have the houses finished by December this year.

Cecilia Taylor is the Resident Liaison Officer at Thakeham Partnerships Ltd. You can contact her if you have any questions about Site C and the build.

cecilia.taylor@thakeham.com

07918 604997





THAKEHAM

Keeping memories alive

Waverley Borough Council are making a short film about the new housing, as a way of documenting how Ockford Ridge has changed over recent years. We will be using footage and drone photography sourced from developers, our own photography, as well as additional archive material from Godalming Museum.



We are currently looking for Ockford Ridge residents who would be willing to be interviewed about their experience - positive or negative - of moving, moving away or moving into their new home.

If you are interested in taking part please call Kate Douglas at Waverley Housing on 07909 871633 for a chat. She would love to hear from you!

Surrey building control awards



Waverley Borough Council were winners at the Surrey Building Control Awards held earlier this month.

Ockford Ridge Site B, now Laurel Close, received the award for Best new Local Authority housing development and Best sustainable development.

We are delighted with this result and hope you are too. You can read the full press release at www.waverley.gov.uk.

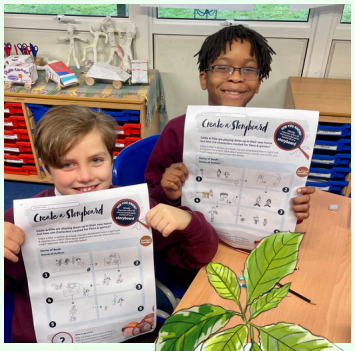
Meet the contractor - afternoon drop in



Join us at our next meet the contractor event, where we will be sharing the plans for our 7 homes retrofit project. **Meet** Niblock Construction Ltd and the Waverley Borough Council Housing Development Team.

We will be at St. Mark's Community Centre, Franklyn Road, Godalming GU7 2LD on **Thursday 13 July between 3.30pm and 7.00pm.** Tea and biscuits will be served. Pop in at a time that suits, see the plans and have a chat.

Award winning biodiversity school workshop





Eddie & Ellie's Wild Adventures is Thakeham's award winning programme based around a children's book for Key Stage 2 primary school pupils to learn about about ecology & biodiversity in a fun way.

Thakeham were the proud winners of the 2022 CIRIA Community Engagement Award at The BIG Biodiversity Challenge Awards with the scheme, and have been working with St Mark and All Saints Primary School on Eashing Lane to deliver this. Recently, the students took part in an interactive and engaging storyboard workshop based on the Eddie & Ellie book, which every pupil has been gifted a copy of. In May the whole Year 3 class also enjoyed a fantastic trip to Surrey Wildlife Trusts outdoor learning centre.

Waverley Borough Council is delighted to see schemes like this in action in the borough, helping to support delivery of their wider biodiversity policy.

Fun filled trim-trail adventures...

A donation has been made to St Mark and All Saints Primary School for new play equipment. It's part of the community benefit scheme for the Ockford Ridge development at Site C, that Waverley Borough Council is delivering in partnership with Thakeham and other community stakeholders. The equipment has been donated to help the pupils' physical and mental wellbeing.



The trim-trail play apparatus was put up during the Easter Break, ready for active play when the children returned from their school holidays. The feedback from the children so far has been really positive.

Here's to a summer of fun-filled climbing adventures for the children, as they trim trail their way through playtimes!

"It makes me connect with other kids because we all have the trim trail. Also it makes our playtime more fun than it was. I just love it so so so much!"

New bird bath in the community garden

Eashing Cemetery Community Garden and Orchard is a joint initiative between Waverley Borough Council, Godalming Town Council, and Thakeham Partnerships Ltd, with COPSE Community Orchard Project South East and Roots for the Future as green contractors.





Groups, such as schools, Girlguides, Brownies, Rainbows, Cubs, corporate teams and residents from the local community have all enjoyed helping with the initiative. A huge thanks go to 1st Ockford Ridge Guides who created and recently installed a beautiful new birdbath at the garden.

Follow us on Facebook:
Eashing Cemetery Community Garden

Join us each week...

It's time to plant new trees, Scots Broom, heather, more bulbs and many other lovely plants. Let Francesca@rootsforthefuture.co.uk know if you would like to get involved and cannot make Tuesdays or Thursdays, otherwise feel free to turn up on the day. We will be there from 4.30 - 6.00pm each Tuesday until October and from 9.15 -10.30am on Thursdays from 9th June, so come and help us plant, tidy, trim and water this wonderful space.

New volunteers welcome at the Community Garden

We have plenty of space for new volunteers to help in our community garden.
If you are interested in being part of the team, on a one off or regular basis, come and join us on community days or on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Check the Facebook page or banner by the cemetery bus stop for details.

Your Ward!





Your Council Ward is called Godalming Central and Ockford. Following the May 2023 elections Councillor Paul Follows and Councillor Victoria Kiehl are your local Ward Councillors at Waverley Borough Council. Councillor Follows is also Leader of the Council. If you have any questions or concerns about your community, please get in touch via the Waverley Borough Council website www.waverley.gov.uk

And finally...

Grab a cuppa, take a moment and go and enjoy the new bench in the Orchard provided by Skillway. Soak up some of that summer warmth and admire the craftmanship from the students who made it. A huge thanks to them!

SKILLWAY

Eashing Cemetery Community Garden & Orchard

Waverley BOROUGH COUNCIL