My Ockford Ridge

Winter 2023



Seasons Greetings from us....

Working together as a community is at the heart of the new affordable home development at Ockford Ridge, and this edition of My Ockford has some wonderful examples of the community working together, as Thakeham move towards completion of our new homes.

Works are still ongoing at Site C, and although we have been slightly delayed by the utility companies carrying out pipe laying and engineering works, we are heading towards completion of this phase and look forward to the day when the new homes are open to residents in the Spring.

In this edition we have an update on Site C, we introduce our new contractor Niblock who are working on the council house retrofit project to deliver 7 energy efficient homes at the Ridge, and we update you on the work that has been carried out in the community garden as part of our community benefit fund.

There is an update on Eddie and Ellie, on Keeping Memories Alive and some lovely photos of people working together in the community garden.

Our Mayor of Waverley, Councillor Penny Rivers, talking about the new Skillway bench at Eashing Cemetery that was installed earlier this year said:

“Benches are a mark - a benchmark - of a good community. This one certainly is. Benches are for all and allow us to sit, rest and just be. Thanks to Thakeham for the wood and Skillway students for the carpentry. This is great cooperation and shows that we can do so much more when we work together”.

I couldn’t agree more. Ockford Ridge feels like that to us - real community spirit working together.

Thanks for all your patience, understanding and support as we build these new homes. We wish you and your families a very Merry Christmas.



Andrew Smith
Executive Head of Housing

Waverley BOROUGH COUNCIL

30 new affordable homes at Ockford Ridge near completion

The fourth phase of the regeneration of Ockford Ridge, Site C, being delivered by leading local house builder Thakeham is nearing completion. Site C comprises 18 houses and 12 flats for social, affordable rent and shared ownership and the last of the properties should be finished next Spring.



All of the homes will be net zero carbon in operation, with solar panels and air source heat pumps providing renewable energy to heat and light the homes. Swift bricks and bat boxes are being installed on many of the houses, along with hedgehog highways (holes in fences) to give nature a helping hand.

The last big piece of work is by Thames Water who will be connecting the water and drains. Some residents will be affected by these works. Separate letters have been sent to you, if it affects access to your home for a short period of time.

For any help or information about Site C, please contact the Resident Liaison Officer, Cecilia Taylor.

THAKEHAM

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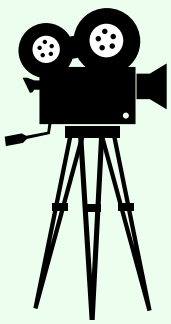
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Christmas at site

Work at the Ridge will stop for the Christmas period with the final working day of the year for Thakeham and Niblock on 22 December. Thakeham reopen Site C on 2 January 2024 and Niblock start back on 3 January.

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.



Thank you to those residents who have said they are willing to be interviewed about their experience. We look forward to sharing the film when it is ready.

If you have any questions about the keeping memories alive project please call Kate Douglas at Waverley Housing on 07909 871633.

Welcoming Niblock to the Ridge

Work has begun on the seven retrofit properties on the Ridge, with the sites secured and the initial stripping out being completed. These works will continue to make progress over the next few months, incorporating the addition of external wall insulation, new windows and doors, solar panels, air source heat pumps, new electrical installations, and revised interiors. Completion of the works is expected next year.

Niblock is keen to add benefit to the local community through their recent involvement with the community garden, engagement with St Mark and All Saints Primary School, and donations to support local initiatives such as the Surrey SATRO Mentoring Programme.

Any questions? Contact the Site Manager - see details on the site noticeboards.

NIBLOCK BUILDING CONTRACTORS

Top marks in Considerate Contractor scheme

We are very pleased to report that Ockford Ridge Site C again scored the maximum of 45 out of 45 in the report from the Considerate Constructors visit on September 28th. Well done Thakeham. Keep up the good work!

Award winning school biodiversity programme





Eddie & Ellie's Wild Adventures is Thakeham's award winning programme for primary school pupils to learn about ecology & biodiversity in a fun way. Following the summer update on our storyboarding and Surrey Wildlife Trustday trip, we are delighted to have continued working with St Mark and All Saints Primary to deliver the programme.

The children in year 3 have been to visit Ockford Ridge Site C, where they learnt not only about construction, but also local wildlife and how we are supporting this at the new development. We talked about the swift bricks, bat boxes, hedgehog holes and pollinator friendly planting at the scheme, as well as having a fun wildlife fact game to boost their know how of the local wildlife. In addition, we have delivered a 3Rs, Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, poster workshop in school this term to help support pupils understanding of this important sustainability topic. Their designs were fantastic!

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

Heigh ho heigh ho it's off to work we go.....

A 13 strong team of Thakeham and community volunteers helped with the new beech hedge planting by the shed at Eashing Cemetery this November. They also dug in a new Rowan tree and landscaped around the tree and the local Girlguide birdbath.

Thanks to Francesca at Roots for Future for leading 6 school and Girlguiding groups on planting days at the garden. Come spring, we are going to see a huge display of new bulbs!

With winter here, we are finishing our Tuesday community gardening for a while but watch out for the banner with new planting days in the Spring.



Roots for the Future

New Skillway bench in the community garden

Mayor of Waverley, Councillor Penny Rivers, was joined by Waverley Borough Council representatives and Thakeham staff in September this year to celebrate the achievements of students at local education charity Skillway - a charity supported by the Mayor.





The students have crafted a beautiful new bench and metal tree plaques for the Eashing Cemetery community garden at Ockford Ridge positioned so people visiting the garden can sit still for a moment and reflect. Huge thanks to Skillway for their additions to this wonderful community space!

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. It's there for everyone to enjoy all year round.

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

We'll be back with lots to do next spring.....



Follow us on Facebook: Eashing Cemetery Community Garden

Your Ward





Hello! We are Paul and Victoria, your local ward borough councillors for Ockford Ridge, Aaron's Hill, and the town centre. In this edition of My Ockford we wanted to take the opportunity to highlight that Waverley Borough Council has a Household Support Fund to help residents who need support with the cost of living, by making grants of up to £550. The fund can help households with the cost of essentials such as food, energy and water bills, and wider essentials like clothing and white goods. Please visit www.waverley.gov.uk/financialsupport for more information and how to apply.

If you'd like to have a chat about a local issue that is important to you, please do get in touch with us, we would be more than happy to meet.

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Cllr Victoria Kiehl victoria.kiehl@waverley.gov.uk