

Beechwood Village

NEWSLETTER

Issue 43: October 2022

Welcome to the latest issue of our
Beechwood Village newsletter.

www.swan.org.uk

www.beechwood-village.co.uk



Val Vassall, a local resident, shared how valuable she found the session:

“I am trained in Beauty Therapy to NVQ Level 2 and 3. I have over 20 years of experience in this industry and I am looking to start up my own business as a trainer. This knowledge will give me confidence in taking the next steps of my career.”



HEALTH AND AESTHETICS TRAINING DAY

Earlier this summer, Beechwood and Craylands residents attended a health and beauty taster session where they were taught the vital skills needed to set up their own health and beauty business. The session trainer, Dawn, started by taking participants through a range of beauty procedures, including Hopi ear candling, massaging, vitamin D injection, facials and eyebrow tinting. Dawn then covered essential formalities such as setting up a salon, health and safety, patch testing, client consultation, public liability insurance, council licensing, self-employment, funding and timings and costs of treatments. Those in attendance found it very informative and really enjoyed the session.

HELPING HANDS GRANT



The Beechwood Village Community Trust has a range of funding streams currently open to Beechwood and Craylands residents. Funding is available for community groups

and projects, and to support your children taking part in sporting activities. There are four funding rounds each year and the next round closes on **Friday 6 January 2023**. The funding criteria and other funding opportunities we have available can be found on the **Beechwood Community Trust** website: www.beechwoodtrust.org.uk.

Swan and Sanctuary Housing Association are in discussions to enter into a potential business combination, with both parties working towards Swan becoming a subsidiary of Sanctuary on 30 November 2022.

Sanctuary Housing Association is one of the UK's largest and strongest operators in the sector, managing more than 105,000 homes across England and Scotland.

In the meanwhile, Swan will continue to focus on the delivery of services to its customers and stakeholders, while progressing the partnership with Sanctuary.

Further updates will be provided at www.swan.org.uk.

BEECHWOOD NORTH UPDATE

As you may be aware, the interruption to the demolition process has resulted in incidents of anti-social behaviour and illegal entry to the remaining properties. Swan would like to apologise and reassure you that these blocks have now been vacated and we are doing all we can to address the challenges presented by these empty buildings. We are committed to improving the situation for the local community as soon as possible.

Swan has already introduced a security presence at the site and there are now two security guards patrolling the area at night. These guards are equipped with body cam technology and QR codes as they make their rounds to ensure adequate patrolling takes place.

Residents can now contact the security guards to enable quicker responses if you witness illegal entry to the blocks. This number should only be used in such cases and any incidents of criminal behaviour should still be reported to the police. The numbers for the security company are: **0208 2895 858** or **0333 400 1888**.

Basildon Council has appointed contractors to clear the old fencing and vegetation, including the fencing around the blocks, and to carry out further works to prevent illegal access. These works have now started. The clearance of the gardens in the terraced blocks will be included in these works. The contractor will also remove the protruding rain guards from the entrances to the blocks to stop these being used to access the upper floors. We have also re-secured the homes in both Swan and council ownership at Wells Gardens and undertaken additional measures to try and prevent illegal entry.

We recognise that this situation is one we need to closely monitor until demolition is complete and we will be holding weekly joint inspections of the site by council and Swan staff so that any issues can be identified and resolved.

BEECHWOOD SOUTH UPDATE

Swan is focussing currently on bringing Beechwood West to completion and will use what we have learned to review options for future phases. This process will take some time and so the original programme for future phases is likely to be significantly delayed.

When will the demolition restart?



We are currently awaiting a timetable from the various statutory authorities for the remaining services to be disconnected, which we are unable to control and may take some time. The demolition contractor will get back on site soon after this. We would like to thank you all for your continued patience as we work towards completing the demolition and to apologise again for the impact the delay in these works has caused residents. We will share more updates in this newsletter as and when we have news to share. You can also stay up-to-date on our website at beechwood-village.co.uk.

What about the communal green spaces?



We have listened to your feedback about the poor condition of the communal green spaces. We are sorry that these spaces are not in the condition we would expect and are working to have this sorted. In the meantime, we will ensure that we are trimming regularly to keep them tidy.

THE BEECH TINY WINDOWS



Beechwood's Community Hub, The Beech, was completely transformed earlier this year. Swan and the community teamed up with local artist, Ash Fields, from Our Tiny Windows, to give the Beech exterior a complete makeover, with the windows now displaying some magnificent, eye-catching murals. This has not only added some much-needed colour to the community hub, but it has created a space that is representative of the local community. In order to create the murals, members of the Beechwood and Craylands community attended a photoshoot with Ash, where he also asked questions to get a sense of them as individuals, letting him really showcase their personalities in the artwork. Swan's Community Development Project Officer, **Will Oldham**, said:

“By using real people, this gave the project a much greater depth. It was important for us to represent the diverse community we have at Beechwood; the cross section of members who came forward for this project reflects this so well.”



THE BEECH, YOUR SIGN, YOUR DESIGN

It's competition time! We are looking for a new design for the signage at The Beech – our community hub. We are running a competition, open to all residents of Beechwood and Craylands to design the new sign.

The winning entry will be printed and displayed at the community hub in place of the current signage. There will be a voucher awarded for the resident whose artwork is chosen. Look out for further information on this soon.

HOLIDAY ACTIVITY CLUB AT THE BEECH

We know that the school holidays can be challenging for some families, with the cost of childcare, food and social activities putting extra pressure on finances. This summer, Swan has continued to run the Holiday Activity Club for young people aged 6-16 years old from Beechwood and Craylands. Funded by the Department of Education and delivered in Collaboration with Essex Boys and Girls Clubs, the sessions were able to provide visitors with four hours of sports activity, arts and crafts and a healthy and nutritious hot meal. This summer, we had a total of 42 individual visitors, 350 visits and 350 hot meals - a fantastic turn out!

We will be running our holiday hunger club again this October half term.

👤 Open to all young people aged 6-16 years old living in the Beechwood and Craylands area

📍 The Beech Community Hub | 📅 Monday 24 - Friday 28 October | 🕒 10am - 2pm

We look forward to seeing you then!

To book a place, please contact Swan's Customer Involvement and Community Development team by emailing involvement@swan.org.uk or calling 07725660425.



CALLING ALL GARDENERS!

Are you a keen gardener? Would you enjoy having a space where you can put your green fingers to use?

We are looking for volunteers to get involved in transforming the Beechwood community garden. Whether it be just ideas or on-the-ground help, we would love to get as many of you involved as possible! Please contact William Oldham (woldham@swan.org.uk) if you are interested and we can provide the materials and tools you need.

If you have an enquiry about the Beechwood Village regeneration, please contact us:

By phone: 01277 844242

By email: involvement@swan.org.uk

Or visit the new project website for latest updates on consultations, community news and events taking place at The Beech Community Hub: www.beechwood-village.co.uk

**all information correct at time of going to print*