

BLACKWALL REACH

NEWSLETTER

Issue 48: December 2022

www.swan.org.uk

www.blackwallreachcommunity.co.uk



Deputy Mayor visits Blackwall Reach Food Store



We have worked in partnership with Tower Hamlets Council to transform an unused space at the Blackwall Reach Community Hub into a FOOD store pantry for our residents.

Residents are being offered a 'shopping style' experience, where they can pay a weekly membership fee of £3.50, to access groceries and household items worth up to £30.

An ongoing membership is conditional on engagement with support services such as debt, welfare and benefits advice agencies.

At the end of September, Deputy Mayor of Tower Hamlets, Councillor Maium Talukdar visited the Reach to officially launch FOOD Store: Blackwall.

To find out more about the Food Store visit [@TheFoodStore@towerhamlets.gov.uk](https://twitter.com/TheFoodStore)

"We have already introduced several support packages worth more than £5million to help our most vulnerable residents including an Energy Fund. Our next step is to open FOOD Stores and support existing food banks to make sure no-one goes hungry."

Cllr Talukdar, Deputy Mayor of Tower Hamlets

"Family Action is delighted to be working with the Tackling Poverty team in Tower Hamlets to deliver new Food Stores, ensuring more people across the borough have access to good quality food at a low cost. We have seen in our many other food services how reducing this pressure can also really help people to have the confidence or 'head space' to access other support they may need."

David Holmes, CEO of Family Action



Development update

We continue to see good progress being made on Phase 2 (Parkside West) of Blackwall Reach.

Works on the outside of Quest House and Venture House will continue throughout December. We will then be able to dismantle the scaffolding on these blocks.

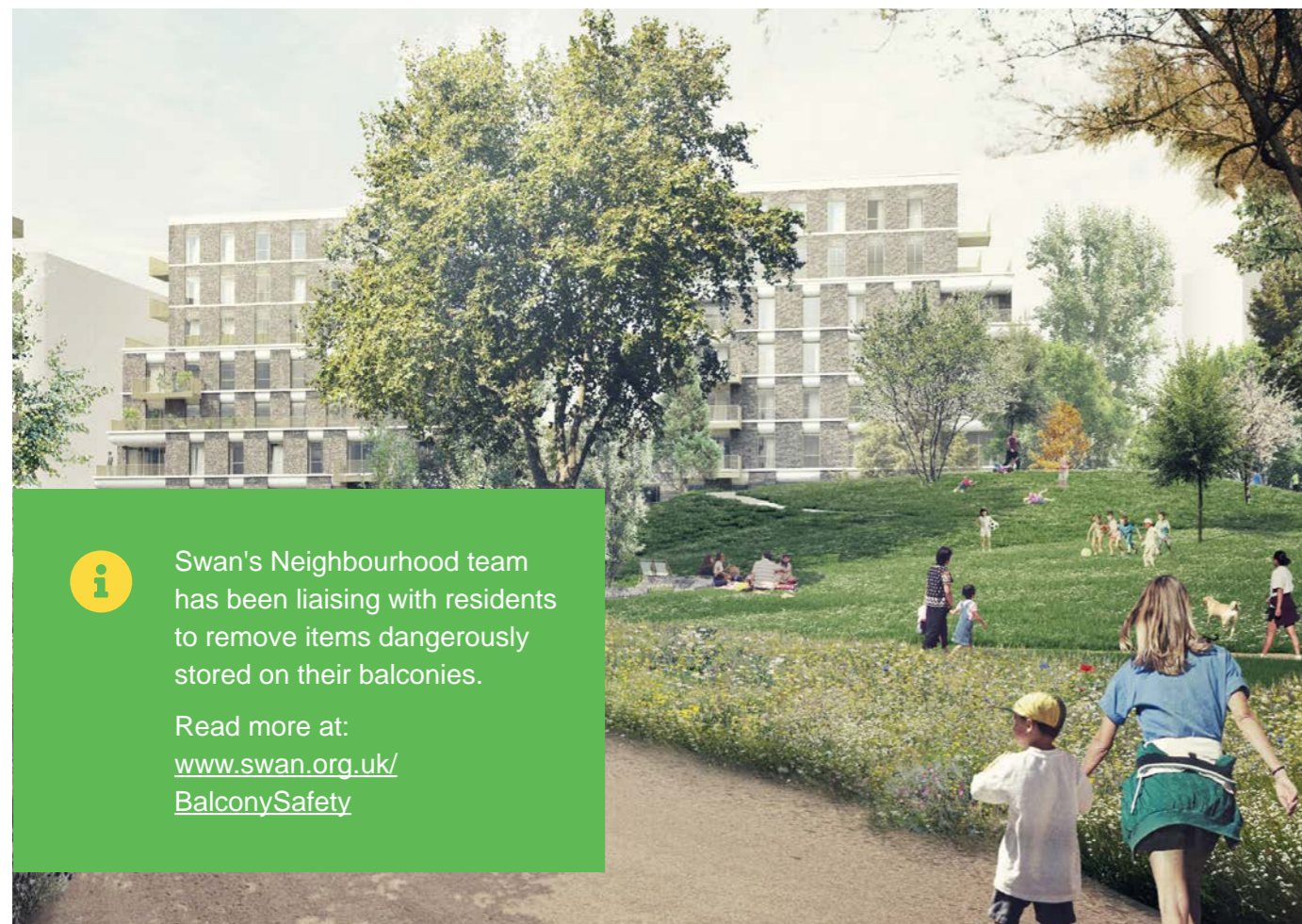
The paving and footpath to the south of the site - near Gosnold House and Wayfare House - is due to be restored soon. We have also begun planting the concrete planters along Cotton Street and near the maisonettes in Wayfare House. This will add colour and vibrancy to the Millennium Green, for residents and members of the public to enjoy.

Internally, kitchens are being fitted and heating systems are being installed. We have also started laying floors and decorating the new homes. Works to the basement car park are also underway.

At the start of November, residents due to move into Gosnold House were invited to see how their new homes are developing. We are looking forward to welcoming these new residents to Blackwall Reach when they move in next year.



The Millennium Green will create a public park for residents and locals alike. There will be a variety of children's play and relaxation areas for all ages as well as an outdoor gym and a community garden for events and food growing.



Swan's Neighbourhood team has been liaising with residents to remove items dangerously stored on their balconies.

Read more at:
www.swan.org.uk/BalconySafety

Business is booming in Blackwall Reach

There are a range of businesses that are thriving since setting up at Blackwall Reach, such as **Dock Coffee** and **The Nest** convenience store. We took time to chat to a few of the owners about what it is like to have a business here.



The Chairman Gentlemen's Grooming

The Chairman Gentlemen's Grooming specialise in

traditional Turkish barbering.

Barber and business owner, Fatih, has worked as a traditional barber for nine years and chose Blackwall Reach as the location of his first shop.

"I was drawn to this area because Blackwall Reach is a very multi-cultural place with an amazing history. The area has been known as Blackwall since the middle ages and takes its name from the colour of the river wall.

The diversity in the area offers an opportunity for more businesses to offer a wide variety of products and services. I enjoy working here and building strong relationships with my customers and serving the surrounding community as it grows. I am thinking about plans for expansion and hope that this shop is the start of a very successful business."

Fatih Ozcan, Owner of The Chairman Gentlemen's Grooming



👉 **Looking for commercial space?** Station Square has one final commercial unit to let - 619.4sq. ft. with outdoor seating area. Please enquire with Stephen Fixman at Forty Group **07961 411 284** | stephen@fortygroup.co.uk

Dream Nails



"Blackwall Reach is a really good location for the fourth salon in my business network. I live locally and picking the right locations for my business is very important to me. There is an existing community here, which is set to grow as the regeneration of the area progresses. The area also benefits from excellent transport connections - people who work in Canary Wharf can easily schedule appointments with us during their lunchbreak as it takes less than 10 minutes to get here using the DLR."

Thanh Vu, Owner and founder of Dream Nails



More Yoga



"Our aim is to be in locations that have high residential and commercial offerings and Blackwall Reach fits the criteria very well. The transport links on the doorstep, a bus station coupled with a brand-new housing development is a perfect recipe - exactly the sort of thing we look for.

Blackwall Reach has a strong community feel and our yoga studio is the hub of that, so other businesses can thrive from the people we attract."

Shamir Sidhu, Founder and Chairman of More Yoga

'Give it a go' grants available

The **Blackwall Reach Trust** is looking for local projects to fund. If you've ever wanted to start a project that could benefit your local community but didn't know how to go about it or just needed the funds to help you start it, then the Trust could help.

Our '**Give It a Go**' Grant has been established to do just that.

The '**Give it a go**' Grant is available only to individuals for the purpose of kickstarting new and innovative community projects, which meet a currently unmet need in the community.

- Grants are up to a maximum of **£500**.
- Applicants must be based in the Blackwall Reach area.

To access the application form or to learn more about the Trust, please visit:
www.blackwallreachtrust.org.uk

For more information email:

admin@blackwallreachtrust.org.uk or call **01285 841 900**.



Season's greetings and
Happy New Year to the
Blackwall Reach community.

Get in touch

Swan Housing Association

Blackwall Reach Office,
9 Webber Path, Poplar,
London, E14 0FZ

Report a repair or a defect

Swan: 0330 222 0322 or shacustomer@swan.org.uk

Office hours: 0800 783 2768

Swan out of office hours - 01376 535190

NU living out of office hours - CCSNH@swan.org.uk