

22 July 2020

Dear resident,

Barnsbury Estate Transformation (BEST) - Restarting formal consultation with residents

I hope you and your loved ones are staying well during the COVID-19 lockdown restrictions. You may recall that I wrote to you in March to let you know that we had decided to postpone the consultation in line with Government guidance. I also confirmed that the resident ballot on the estate transformation proposals would be delayed.

With the Government loosening the lockdown we are very keen to recommence our consultation with you from the beginning of September; however you will not be required to attend in person, if you do not wish to do so. We have been working hard over the past few months to be able to give you more detail on the proposals to refurbish Old Barnsbury and redevelop New Barnsbury. Our autumn consultation programme will update you on the proposals and we will again seek your feedback which will help us to develop our plans.

Our consultation and engagement programme will be carried out in line with Government safety guidelines at all times. Therefore, we will be increasing the options available for you to engage with us. I am sharing our current plan (on the reverse of this letter) to give you a flavour of what to expect this autumn together with our proposed timescales. If you have any other thoughts on how you would like us to engage with you, please let us know using the contact details below.

- *BEST team phone:* Jennifer Oppong: **020 7613 7596** or Jane Cass: **020 8709 9172**
- *Email:* Best@Newlon.org.uk.
- Source Partnership, the residents independent advisors: freephone **0800 616 328** or info@sourcepartnership.com.

I hope that this update is helpful. We will be in touch again with further details of our consultation this autumn along with confirmation of the ways that you can get involved.

Yours sincerely



Symon Sentain

Assistant Director of Property Services, Newlon Housing Trust

How we will share information

- Throughout the autumn we will host online workshops similar to those hosted previously at the community centre. If you do not have access to the internet, you will be able to book a socially-distanced meeting with the BEST team to discuss workshop material, which will be posted to every address on the estate.
- Regular newsletters will also be posted to every household on the estate from the beginning of September which will provide an update on each online workshop – and to explain how your feedback has been incorporated in the scheme.
- You will continue to be able to provide feedback via an online form, via email, over the phone and in person.
- All information will continue to be placed on our website, www.betterbarnsbury.org.uk.

How you can engage with us

Once we have sent out our first newsletter and published details on our website we would like to gain your feedback. Social distancing will mean that more of our engagement will need to move online; however, we have also made provision for people who do not have access to the internet. Please see below our ideas for ways in which you can engage with us.

Engagement	Details
Better Barnsbury website	Feedback via our website, www.betterbarnsbury.org.uk , through short survey questions as well as detailed feedback, if you wish.
Givemyview.co.uk	Many of you gave us valuable feedback via the givemyview.co.uk website earlier this year. We will organise another round of questionnaires using this platform and will notify you via email and text , where we have your details.
Face-to-face meetings	We recognise that not everyone has access to the internet. We aim to organise socially distanced, face-to-face discussions on a household-by-household basis. These will be arranged in advance and <u>operated on a pre-booked basis only</u> . We will apply all current COVID-19 safety guidelines including deep cleaning between meetings. These meetings are intended for people who cannot access the internet.
Online meetings	We would like to organise online discussions with residents of the estate, similar to previous workshops in the Community Centre. We would welcome your views on tools, such as Zoom that would help us to reach the largest possible number of residents. Again, we would hold a number of these meetings. <u>Attendance would be on a pre-booked basis</u> . We will provide simple 'How To' demonstrations for using Zoom if you are unfamiliar with using this online meeting tool.
Via email	You would still be welcome to send your comments to us via email .
By telephone	Many of you have been in contact by telephone with the BEST team during the lockdown. We feel it is important that residents should be able to speak to us whenever they need to and will maintain our availability. We will also be available to receive your comments on our evolving transformation proposals.

Timescales

We aim to maintain all of the above methods of communication and engagement throughout the autumn and will send you regular updates on the way that our proposals are evolving in response to feedback. **We have pencilled in December 2020 as a possible new date for the residents' ballot.**

If you would like this letter in large print, audio, Braille or any other format, please contact us or ask a member of staff.