

INVOLVE...

Keeping you updated with planning Plymouth's future



Issue 20 November / December 2010

BUILDING FOR LIFE AWARDS

Plymouth's commitment to delivering homes of the highest quality and design has been recognised nationally. The city has received no less than five of the industry's twenty 2010 national Gold Building for Life standard awards, as well as 4 silver standard awards. The awards were for:

Gold Awards

Cargo at Millbay

134 units

Astor Court, Barbican

24 homes

Friar's Lane, Barbican

15 homes

Grainey's Joinery,

Bretonside 64 homes

Mills Bakery, Royal

William Yard 78 homes

Silver Awards

Evolution Cove

58 homes

James Place 329 homes

Middleton's 11 homes

Plymstock Library

27 homes

Building for Life is the national standard for well designed homes and neighbourhoods and is assessed on criteria such as closeness to transport links, community facilities and how well they fit in with the character of the area.

The initiative is led by CABE (Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment) and the Home Builders Federation. The awards are judged by a panel of experts each year. They are given to new housing schemes that demonstrate a commitment to high design standards and good place making.

Councillor Ted Fry, Cabinet Member for Planning, Strategic Housing and Economic Development, said: "Plymouth takes the design of new homes very seriously and the awards demonstrate not only the quality of the architects, but the proactive and positive approach of the Council's planning and strategic housing teams. It also shows it is possible to achieve excellent design standards during a period of economic recession."

For more information on Building for Life go to www.buildingforlife.org



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www.plymouth.gov.uk/planning

BUILDING CONTROL JOINED UP WORKING

Paul May, Chief Building Control Manager with Cornwall Council has joined Plymouth City Council on a six month contract working with the Building Control Department.

This service regulates building construction ensuring that buildings are structurally sound, safe in event of fire, have adequate drainage and ventilation and are accessible for all. Building Control also issue safety certificates for sports grounds.

Paul believes that a joint working approach will increase flexibility and improve customer services, as well as create an increased skills base.

Plymouth's Building Control department were overall winners at the Local Authority Building Control South West Awards.

The winning schemes were:

- Plymouth High School for Girls – Phase II
- Kerr Street Phase I

For more information about the Building Control services go to www.plymouth.gov.uk/buildingcontrol



HAVE YOUR SAY ON THE FUTURE OF TRANSPORT IN PLYMOUTH

The Council is consulting on its third Local Transport Plan (LTP) which is due to be adopted in Spring 2011. The LTP sets out the city's objectives and strategy for transport investment over the period 2011 to 2026. It also contains an initial action plan setting out how the city will invest its transport funding during the first three years of that period. The city faces many transport challenges in the future, especially how to provide the improved transport infrastructure and services needed to cope with the city's planned economic and population growth.

We would like to hear your views on the work we have done so far:

- Have we identified the most pressing transport problems in the city?
- Are the objectives we have selected the right ones for the city?
- Are we taking the right approach? Should we be doing things differently?

The public consultation on the draft LTP began on 25 October, but runs until 14 January 2011, so there is plenty of time to get involved. To view the document and have your say, register your interest through our online consultation portal: <http://plymouth.limehouse.co.uk/portal>

We will be holding a number of consultation events at locations around the city between mid-November and mid-December. For dates and locations and other ways to get involved please go to www.plymouth.gov.uk/ltp

PLANNING OBLIGATIONS AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING

The Planning Obligations and Affordable Housing Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) - First Review 2010 was formally adopted by the Council in August 2010.

It provides guidance to developers and other users of the planning system regarding the basis on which planning obligations will be sought and further guidance on the requirement to provide affordable housing, as well as other negotiated elements depending on the context of the application.

To view the adopted document visit www.plymouth.gov.uk/affordablehousingrevised

PLANNING SERVICES CUSTOMER SURVEY 2010

We would like to know what you think about the service you have received from planning this year.

Our 2010 Customer Survey is being sent to everyone who receives this newsletter, or anyone who has made a comment or been involved with the Local Development Framework, had involvement with Building Control, or has had dealings with an enforcement issue or submitted a planning application over the past year. Please return this survey in the enclosed stamped addressed envelope by 1 December 2010.

The survey is available online at <http://plymouth.consult.limehouse.co.uk/public/planning/survey/cs2011>

The results of the survey will inform the business plan for the service next year, helping us to focus on improvement for 2011 and establish whether we are making progress.

DRAFT CENTRAL PARK MASTERPLAN

Plans to enhance Central Park and transform it into Plymouth's premier park are on display until 26 November.

People are being asked for their thoughts on a draft masterplan which has been drawn up by Plymouth City Council who are keen to make sure the proposals meet the changing needs of the city and provide a lasting and valuable legacy for future generations.

We have joined up with local school children from Hyde Park Primary and, in conjunction with the national Big Draw event, have asked them to come up with ideas for improving the park. The children were very keen and have given us some great ideas already.

The cost of the proposed improvements is estimated at £12.1 million over 10 years. This will be met from a variety of sources including grants. There will be opportunities for people to have a say on the proposals at a series of consultation events.

For more information go to
www.plymouth.gov.uk/centralparkmasterplan



Following on from consultation on previous occasions at Central Park here are some of your suggestions that we have acted upon:

You said...	We listened...
Improve sports facilities	We intend to improve the number and quality of sports pitches and provide new sports changing facilities
Provide public toilets	Public toilets will be linked to the two new cafes so they can be properly managed and maintained.
Improve main car park	We plan to make landscape improvements to the main car park and sensitive improvements to the park's main entrances.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WORKING

The Neighbourhood Regeneration Team works in the most deprived communities across Plymouth with the aim of creating strong, safe and healthy neighbourhoods. The main focus in the future will be North Prospect and Stonehouse together with Whiteleigh, Honicknowle, Barne Barton, Stoke and Devonport.

The team is playing a major part in the Local Strategic Partnership's move to 'locality working', with key roles in the North West and South West localities whilst also providing the neighbourhood liaison officer role for around 20 percent of the neighbourhoods across the city. A key role for the team will be to develop neighbourhood action plans in partnership with local councillors, the community and service providers.

If you want to know more about the work of the team, want to let us know what you're doing and where we can 'join up', if you need assistance to deliver your work in the targeted neighbourhoods, then please get in touch on 01752 306532 or email: neighbourhoodregenerationteam@plymouth.gov.uk

DEVELOP A GREENER CITY

Planning Services is working to ensure that as Plymouth grows it develops its 'green' assets, making them available to everyone. The Plymouth Green Infrastructure Project and the Stepping Stones to Nature project are leading the way to ensure this aspiration becomes a reality.

Over the last year the Stepping Stones project has improved three green spaces within the City, with the help of local communities, and provided over 1000 residents with the opportunity to become involved in their green spaces.

To find out more about these projects please visit
www.plymouth.gov.uk/steppingstones

SALTRAM COUNTRYSIDE PARK

Work has been progressing on plans for a new countryside park on the edge of Plymouth following an initial consultation in the summer.

The park at Saltram will be a major asset for the city and over 20 projects are being considered which will improve access, provide recreational opportunities, improve the area for wildlife, protect its historical assets as well as help support the farming businesses within the park that is so important to maintaining its landscape.

Consultation on these proposals began on Thursday 28 October. Displays will be held at Plympton library on Tuesday 2 November; and Plymstock library on Wednesday 3 November between 3pm and 7pm and then at the Saltram Estate in the restaurant area between 4 and 7 November.

All the proposals and details of the consultation arrangement can be found at www.plymouth.gov.uk/saltrammasterplan

REDUCING LETTERS

We will be reducing the number of letters we send out to help cut costs. However, this will be done in a way that does not affect the quality of our service to you.

The changes are as follows

- We will stop sending acknowledgement letters to people commenting on Planning Applications.
- But people who have commented will not be left in the dark as all letters of representation, plans and progress on planning application will be updated regularly on the website for everyone to see.
- Letters to notify neighbours that an application has been amended, determined or withdrawn will also no longer be sent and people who have applied for planning permission will now be sent a decision by email in a pdf format wherever possible.

We will continue to

- Send out initial letters to neighbours to explain how they can view progress of an application on the website or see any letter of representation they submit
- This will also give details of how people can view online if they do not have the internet, for example through libraries and Council First Stop
- Send out a separate letter to advise if the application is going to Planning Committee
- Send out a separate letter advising that an appeal has been made on the application.

These new arrangements are expected to lead to costs savings of up to £8,000.

We would also like to reduce the number of paper copies of this newsletter we send out. From now on, we will only send out email copies of this newsletter, unless you specifically confirm to us in writing or by phone that you still wish to receive a paper copy posted to you. Contact us on telephone number 01752 307893 or in writing to Sharon Sheppard, Planning Services, Civic Centre, Plymouth PL1 2AA

Alternatively if you currently receive this newsletter by post but would prefer to receive it electronically please send your email address to sharon.sheppard@plymouth.gov.uk who will amend your records.

PLANNING APPLICATION FOR CONSIDERATION

Tesco Transit Way, Planning Application Number 08/01989/FUL

The proposal will include the construction of a 2 storey car park for 745 vehicles, including 29 parent and toddler spaces and 33 spaces for use by the disabled, also a new bus waiting area. The development will require the existing shopping centre to be demolished and rebuilt with 12 additional shops and a café.

There will be improvements to the junction of Crownhill Road and Transit Way, and a new pedestrian crossing facility across Old Woodlands Road, with enhanced pedestrian links to the surrounding area.

The proposal could generate approximately 200 additional full time equivalent jobs, the majority of which will be recruited locally.



KEEP IN TOUCH...

Planning Applications

www.plymouth.gov.uk/planningapplications
planningconsents@plymouth.gov.uk
01752 304366

Local Development Framework

www.plymouth.gov.uk/ldf
ldf@plymouth.gov.uk
01752 305477

Building Control

www.plymouth.gov.uk/buildingcontrol
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Planning Services Plymouth City Council Civic Centre Plymouth PL1 2AA

If you would like this newsletter in an alternative format please call 01752 305477