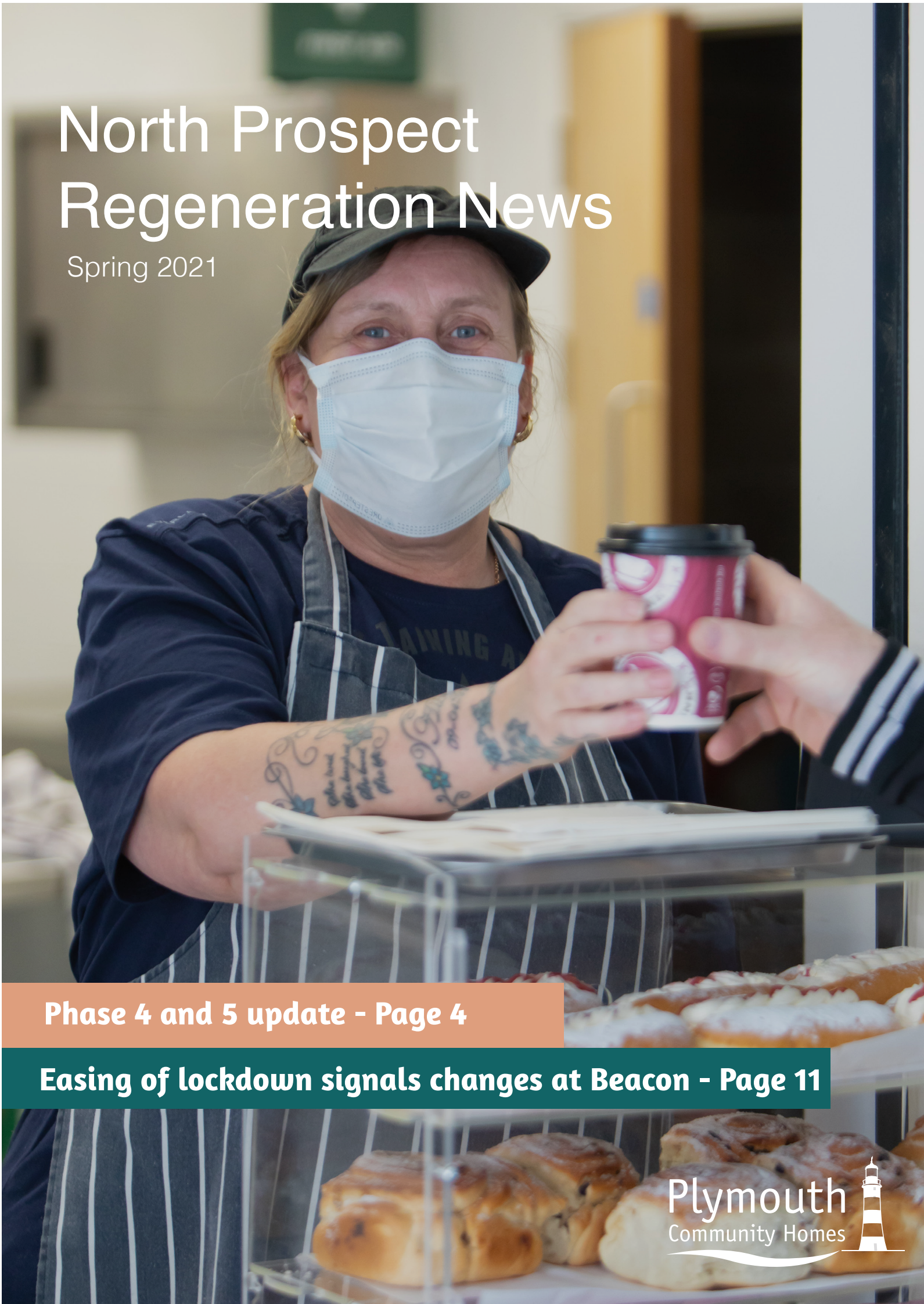


North Prospect Regeneration News

Spring 2021



Phase 4 and 5 update - Page 4

Easing of lockdown signals changes at Beacon - Page 11

Plymouth
Community Homes



WELCOME

Spring is often seen as a time of renewal and that's certainly the case at the Beacon, where some of our resident groups are starting to meet in person again.

Our gardening sessions (pictured) are meeting again under the rule of six outdoors at the community hub, which has also seen its café open in recent weeks.

There's also activity going on at Titchy Park after we consulted with you about improvements you'd like to see there.

You'll hopefully be seeing changes soon and we'll be getting your feedback about what's needed there.

Maybe spring will signal a new career for you – Vistry Partnerships has launched its Skills Academy, which could get you a foothold into the construction industry.

Vistry is also hard at work on Phase 4, while Kier is progressing well with Phase 5.

There's more information on all these stories in this issue.



Gardening sessions at the Beacon





Residents are being asked to help care for new trees which have been planted in North Prospect.

Our three-person strong tree team has planted trees across the city in recent weeks, including some in Wolseley Road and Ham Drive as part of our annual tree planting programme.

In total, 39 trees have been planted. This includes those planted by Plymouth City Council on our land as part of their Plan for Trees programme.

This year, we're asking residents to get involved with looking after the trees – and we're giving them the help they need to get started.

Each tree will have a sustainable tag on it explaining how to care for it. We're also developing a Google Maps web page which shows where new trees are located.

Clicking on an icon of each tree reveals further information about the tree including its species.

Species we've planted include lime, beech, oak, hawthorn, birch, poplar, apple and sweet chestnut.

Our Arboriculturist, Joe Berryman, said: "It takes three years for a tree to be fully independent. After care involves watering and adjusting the sticks and ties that support them. We put mulch or woodchip around the base and that needs to be turned over. You can use dish water or bath water to water the trees.

"If people feel involved and know where the trees are, they can take some ownership. We'd like people to become guardians of the trees."

"While out and about on the sites we look after, carrying out tree works and surveying, we see areas that are looking bare of tree cover, and consider what species of tree might work here.

"We consider things like the site's light, soil and wind conditions, what other species grow in the area, and the space available to plant trees. This information helps us in our planning.

"We'd also like to hear your feedback – what trees would you like to see and where?"

Let us know by calling our Environmental Services team on **0808 230 6500**.

PHASE 4 AND 5 UPDATE

COULD YOU NAME OUR NEW HOMES?

These images show the progress being made on the new over 55s apartment block at Phase 5 (Briarwood), which is now up to roof height.

Kier Living is building 143 homes for us – 81 for affordable housing and shared ownership.

This includes 33 social rent flats for the over 55s, which are due to be finished in December of this year.

The apartment block is currently nameless – can you help us choose a suitable name for it?

Nicola Daniel, Senior Project Manager at PCH, said: “The flats are now starting to take shape and we are targeting completion for the end of 2021. The building does not yet have a name – we’re happy to take any suggestions for review!

“We’ve now taken handover of 30 affordable homes – 19 shared ownership and 11 for affordable rent. Kier’s private sales are strong – over half the private plots are now occupied.”

Kier will have 62 homes in this phase for open market sale.

The entire phase is due to be completed early next year.

If you have any ideas for names, please call Nicola on **0808 230 6500**.



Leslie



Phase 4 update

Phase 4 (Mayflower Leat) is also progressing well and you should notice plots going up along Dingle Road and NorthProspect Road.

Contractor Vistry Partnerships has temporarily closed the footpath to the immediate perimeter of the site, including North Prospect Road, Laurel Road and Dingle Road on the 'site side' only.

Vistry Partnerships is building 196 homes in this phase – 87 for rent, 38 for shared ownership and 71 for open market sale.

Jo Agnew, PCH Project Manager, said: "The first plots, which will form part of the sales area, are nearly finished and the SO Living show home should be opening in July, Covid restrictions allowing.

"We are expecting the first homes to be handed over in the summer.

"Linden, who are selling the Vistry homes, have already started marketing their plots and are seeing strong interest from potential buyers with some already reserved."

The scheme is due to be completed in 2024.

Young artists can show off their dream home plans

Vistry Partnerships is launching a competition for primary school children in the area to design their perfect home.

The winning designs will be printed and displayed on site hoardings at Phase 4 and the overall winner will receive a £50 One4All voucher.

To enter, designs should be sent to vp.swcompetition@vistrypartnerships.co.uk, along with the child's name and age by 30 June. The winner will be chosen soon after.

Leatherjackets

We've had reports of problems with leatherjackets in the gardens at some of our new homes. Leatherjackets are the larvae of the crane fly or daddy-longlegs which feed on grass roots and can damage lawns.

We are encouraging all new build owner/occupiers to treat their lawns for at least the first two years with an organic solution called nematodes to prevent infestation.

Generally it should be watered onto the lawn between April and May and then again between August and October but please check specific product instructions.

Please check your lawn regularly for signs of leatherjacket larvae and follow the necessary maintenance.

For more information about leatherjackets, go to the RHS website: <https://www.rhs.org.uk/advice/profile?pid=651>.

NEW SITE TEAM FOR PHASE 4

You may have noticed a few new faces at Phase 4.

Vistry Partnerships has introduced a new site team. They are:



James Stride
Senior Operations Manager



Yanni Sechatis
Senior Site Manager



Barry Dann
Assistant Site Manager



Rhys Williams
Assistant Site Manager

For any queries regarding works taking place, please contact Vistry's Customer Service department on 0800 975 5946 or email customer care@vistrypartnerships.co.uk.

FANCY A JOB IN CONSTRUCTION



ZN
ZN?



If you're 19-24 and looking for a new and exciting career, why not enrol in Vistry Partnership's Skills Academy which provides a FREE eight-week training course.

Once completed you will walk away with a set of qualifications and a CSCS card enabling you to work on building sites.

For more information, or other free training Vistry can offer, email: enquiries@train4all.co.uk.

TITCHY PARK UPDATE

We've already started to make improvements to a popular North Prospect park following feedback from you.

Earlier this year, we asked residents to tell us about their experiences of Titchy Park, in Greatlands Crescent, so we can try and make it better for everyone.

Lots of you responded to our online and postal survey and we've been going through your comments over the past few weeks.

We've already got the ball rolling on a few improvements. We're installing another litter bin near the main gate for dog walkers and have ordered an additional sign for the internal park gate.

We're hoping to repaint the swing frame at some point and our Rangers will be giving the hopscotch and snakes and ladders game a good clean.

We also recently removed the shelter that was in the park as it was old and beyond repair.

Next, we'll be asking you what type of benches you'd like it replaced with – nearly three quarters of you said there should be more picnic benches in the park.

Altogether, 61 residents completed our survey. Nearly 80 per cent of residents say they use Titchy Park at least once a month.

Nearly half of you – 48 per cent – rate their experience of the park as 'positive' or 'very positive' while 13 per cent rated their experience as 'negative' or 'very negative'.

Leigh Ferguson, North Prospect Communities Worker, said: "We'd like to thank everyone who filled in our survey. There are opportunities for people to get involved with what happens next. It's really important that any changes we look to make have the backing of the local community.

"When we're allowed to, I'm quite keen to get some activities running in the park. We're also looking at funds for equipment like trampolines and whether it would be feasible to add further play equipment for younger children.

"Our teams will continue to clean the park three times a week and we'll continue to work with the local policing team to address the anti-social behaviour. We may also try and arrange community litter picks. We'll also continue to lock up the park at key times in the evenings and consider extending these throughout the holidays.

"People who have expressed an interest will be contacted about how they can get involved but we're keen to talk to more people so please do get in touch with me if you'd like to have your say."

Contact Leigh on **0808 230 6500**.





SOME OF THE KEY THINGS YOU TOLD US INCLUDE:

Noise can be an issue

You enjoy taking your children to the park

Dog walkers enjoy the green space

Separation of the dog walking area and the play park makes people feel safe

Locking the park at key times helps to address some of the ASB problems

The park's atmosphere is good

The trampoline needs replacing

Litter and broken glass is a problem

The bins could be better located

There could be a better selection of play equipment for toddlers.



THE BEACON

COFFEE HOUSE
AND CAFE



Our Beacon Café is open every Monday to Friday from 8.30am to 1.30pm. It's takeaway only although there are some outdoor tables.

As well as hot and cold drinks, the café serves up bacon and sausage baps from just £2.25 plus baguettes, pasties and cakes.

Jo Lake, Beacon Manager, said: "Any profits we make from the café go back into developing our communities so you can rest assured your cuppa is helping a good cause. We'd ask people to wear a face mask when they visit."

Easing of local signals change at Beacon



Lockdown Changes



As lockdown starts to ease and things go back to normal, activity at the Beacon community hub is gathering pace.

The Beacon is a great place for North Prospect residents to get together – lots of groups meet there and it features a café.

We had to close the building due to the pandemic but activities are starting up again – albeit outdoors for the time being.

Our Tea and Toast group had to move its weekly sessions online when lockdown began last year.

We're happy to say the group has resumed meeting in person outdoors at the Beacon – but places must be booked in advance.

The sessions will continue meeting online on Tuesday mornings in addition to the face-to-face meetings.

Our fortnightly gardening sessions also started up at the end of last month. Again, you can't just turn up as all sessions are operating under the rule of six.

Communities Worker Leigh Ferguson runs both groups. Speaking after the first session last month, he said: "The session was a success. I think people enjoyed the chance to meet face to face and enjoy a complimentary drink from The Beacon Café.

"Those in attendance make up the bulk of those who have been coming to the virtual group I have been running for the past 12 months. Future sessions include more members from the community."

If you would like more information about either the Tea and Toast or gardening sessions or to book on a face-to-face session, please call Leigh Ferguson on **0808 230 6500**.

North Prospect Library

The library, which is run by Plymouth City Council, is open every Wednesday and Friday from 11am to 5pm.

As well as borrowing and returning books, a reduced number of computers will be available to book. Sessions are for a maximum of 45 minutes. Call or email the library to make a booking:

Phone: 01752 398138

Email: northproslib@plymouth.gov.uk

There are a number of measures the council is taking to ensure libraries are Covid safe for everyone. You can read more on the council's website: <https://www.plymouth.gov.uk/libraries/coronaviruscovid19informationaboutlibraries>



Sign up to My PCH today!

Check and pay your rent, report a repair and update your details online from the comfort of your PCH home

mypch.plymouthcommunityhomes.co.uk

We're always keen to hear what you're up to, so if you'd like to tell us about something we can include in the North Prospect Newsletter, we'd love to hear it.

Email news@plymouthcommunityhomes.co.uk.

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