

# CHURCH STREET

## NEWS



BRINGING YOU THE LATEST NEWS FROM THE NEIGHBOURHOOD OF CHURCH STREET



An illustrative view of Site A with the Church Street Market in the foreground

### PLANS FOR SITES A, B AND C SUBMITTED

**A**fter nearly four and a half years of working with residents and local neighbours since initial consultation on the Church Street Masterplan, we have now submitted the planning application for the regeneration of Sites A, B and C.

The decision to submit the application follows a Communities, Regeneration and Housing Policy and Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 17 November 2021. Scrutiny committees are regular meetings that provide elected members the opportunity to look in greater detail at proposals before they proceed.

The planning application is a significant milestone proposing 1,100 new high-quality homes built, of which half will be affordable. As well as building these new homes which are much needed in the area, the plans include improvements to the Church Street Market, public green spaces and a new library.

Following community feedback in the pre-planning consultation in 2021, the design of the new library has been amended to include a mezzanine, increasing its overall floorspace. This feedback told us how important it is for the library to provide a wide variety of services, and that our original designs could further optimise internal space.

The design has also been amended to include balconies so that every household has access to outdoor space. In response to feedback about sunlight in the street, we have stepped back the buildings and added a pedestrian street to reduce the mass of the building. Details of this are available to view within the planning application.

We would like to thank everyone who was involved in the consultation for the plans and every contribution that helped us develop the project to this exciting stage. It is expected that a decision will be made on the planning application in summer 2022.

As part of the formal statutory consultation process you can view and still share your feedback on the proposals, which were submitted on the council's online planning portal at [idoxpa.westminster.gov.uk/online-applications](https://idoxpa.westminster.gov.uk/online-applications) using the following reference number **21/08160/COOUT**. We have also provided the key planning documentation on our website [churchstreet.org](https://churchstreet.org)

Our team is always on hand to talk to you about the submitted proposals all the way up until the day the planning decision is made. Please get in touch with us for support in viewing the application by either visiting our Regeneration Base, by contacting [churchstreet@westminster.gov.uk](mailto:churchstreet@westminster.gov.uk) or by calling **020 7641 2968**.

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### SEASON'S GREETINGS FROM THE CHURCH STREET TEAM

We would like to wish everyone a happy and safe holiday season. In a challenging year, we thank you for all your hard work within the community and we look forward to seeing you in 2022.

## UNDERNEATH THE CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

On Sunday 5 December, Church Street Triangle was glittering with festive cheer as the Christmas lights were switched on by Cllr Andrew Smith, Lord Mayor of Westminster.

Visitors enjoyed festive food and drinks while they created Christmas wreaths with our Youth Market and listened to carols sung by Gateway Academy Choir, South Westminster Community Choir and the Penfold Dementia Choir. There may have even been an early visit from Santa to hand out presents. Thank you to all who joined, it was great to see residents come together for a fantastic community event at this special time of the year.



The Lord Mayor attended Church Street for the Christmas light switch-on

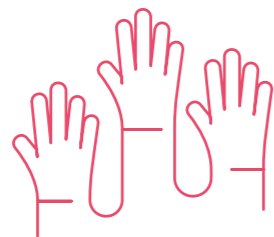
## APPLY TO THE NEIGHBOURHOOD KEEPERS FUND OR JOIN OUR PANEL

If you have an idea that could benefit your community, applications are now open for grants of up to £15,000 to deliver activities that improve the environment that people live in, support digital inclusion and build a strong community in Church Street ward.

Applications can be submitted until 30 January 2022 from local community organisations, Church Street residents, and young people between 16 – 18 years old who can apply with a guarantor. We are running our next application workshop on 12 January 2022 to offer support and guidance with filling out the application.

To apply online or to sign up to our workshops, visit [churchstreet.org/neighbourhoodkeepersprogramme](http://churchstreet.org/neighbourhoodkeepersprogramme), email [neighbourhoodkeepersprogramme@westminster.gov.uk](mailto:neighbourhoodkeepersprogramme@westminster.gov.uk) or call 020 7641 2968 to find out more.

We are also looking for people passionate about their Church Street community to join the **Neighbourhood Keepers Decision Making Panel** and have your say on which projects we should fund. If you are interested in getting involved, you can also contact us by using the details above.



## HELP KEEP CHURCH STREET CLEAN AND HEALTHY

While it may seem helpful to feed the birds, it is causing a major nuisance for Church Street.

We love animals but feeding birds on Church Street attracts rodents, leads to droppings in public areas increasing risk of disease, and results in damage to shop fronts and pavements. Instead, we need birds to maintain their ability to find their own food, rather than becoming dependent on people for their survival. Often the food we feed them, including bread, also lacks the vital nutrients to keep them healthy.

We will shortly be distributing further communication to the local area as part of a campaign to change behaviours and improve the issue. We will also be increasing street inspections, with fines and warnings possibly enforced, which could be up to £100 for an individual and £20,000 for businesses. Improving the living and working environment for everyone in Church Street is our priority. Please do your part to keep Church Street clean, and people, as well as birds, healthy.



## TELLING OUR STORIES

Members of the community recently came together to mark the completion of the 'Book of Dreams' project held between May and October 2021.

After a total of 24 workshops, participants of the 'Book of Dreams', an intergenerational design project that interweaves threads of people's stories, hopes and dreams, showed off their inspiring books. Workshop sessions focused on craft techniques, group creative writing, drawing and sharing personal stories.

An exhibition of the works is being planned for the new year. We'd like to thank everyone who took part in the project which was funded by the Neighbourhood Keepers programme.



Residents celebrate their work at the Church Street Library

## CHURCH STREET'S LOCAL HEROES

### MR ZEKARIYA AKABARI, MARKET TRADER

Originally from Afghanistan, Mr Akabari is a regular face on Church Street having sold cosmetics, jewellery and perfumes since 2001. He trades daily, with his jewellery selection from Turkey and India, which proves very popular with his customers.

Mr Akabari feels a strong sense of connection to the local community, enjoys meeting up with his fellow traders, and serving his regular local customers. On your next visit to the market make sure to drop by! His stall can be found on Church Street towards Edgware Road.



### MR KHAN, OWNER OF GREEN LAUNDRETTE AND DRY CLEANING

Coming to London from India, Mr Khan has been running his business for over seven years on Lilestone Street and is well-known for going above and beyond for his community.

He runs the laundrette mainly by himself and is proud it has become a local community centre, where residents can meet up with other locals to chat and discuss the issues of the day. During periods of uncertainty due to COVID-19, Mr Khan supported older residents to be able to access his service and also delivered food provisions to residents that were unable to leave their homes. He is proud to welcome and serve new customers, so make a visit to find out about his full range of laundry services.



## DEVELOPMENT REACHES KEY MILESTONE WITH ASHBRIDGE STREET 'TOPPING OUT' CEREMONY

Another development within the wider Church Street regeneration programme, Ashbridge Street, has reached a key milestone as the highest point of the structure has been completed. We celebrated the achievement with what is traditionally called a 'topping out' ceremony.

Across sites in Ashbridge Street, Ashmill Street and Cosway Street, 77 new homes will be built with 28 of them being affordable. The income generated by selling the homes at Cosway Street will be reinvested back into affordable housing and community projects in Westminster. The three developments are part of the wider Church Street regeneration programme which in total will see the creation of around 1,750 quality homes.

Cllr Heather Acton, Westminster City Council Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Communities, said "It's fantastic to see these sites reach a major milestone in their construction as the homes are much needed in the area."

Ashbridge Street and Ashmill Street are expected to be completed in summer and autumn 2022 respectively, while Cosway Street is expected to be ready in spring 2023.



Cabinet Member Heather Acton placing the last brick atop the Ashbridge Site



The council and the contractor Osbourne at the ceremony

## COOKING UP A HEALTHY SUCCESS

**D**esi Lunchbox is a Neighbourhood Keepers funded cookery class aimed at getting kids to eat healthily while enjoying it too!

Run by local resident Ayesha, children are taught how to prepare and participate in cooking healthy vegetarian recipes. It's a great skill for them to learn and the activity is much loved by the children.

Through Ayesha, the children are introduced to a range of flavours and cuisines that they otherwise wouldn't normally come across. One parent said "Before this my daughter was a picky eater but since coming to the cooking classes she's tried so many new foods and enjoys cooking and eating now."

Further cookery class dates will be planned shortly. If you would like to get involved or find out more please contact [neighbourhoodkeepers@westminster.gov.uk](mailto:neighbourhoodkeepers@westminster.gov.uk)



New healthy recipes are aplenty at Desi Lunchbox

## CONTACT US

Please get in touch at  
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### Hours

Office open  
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[churchstreet@westminster.gov.uk](mailto:churchstreet@westminster.gov.uk)

### Facebook

[facebook.com/mychurchstreet](https://facebook.com/mychurchstreet)

You can also keep track of the latest news on the Church Street website at:

[churchstreet.org](http://churchstreet.org)

Westminster  
City Council

[westminster.gov.uk](http://westminster.gov.uk)

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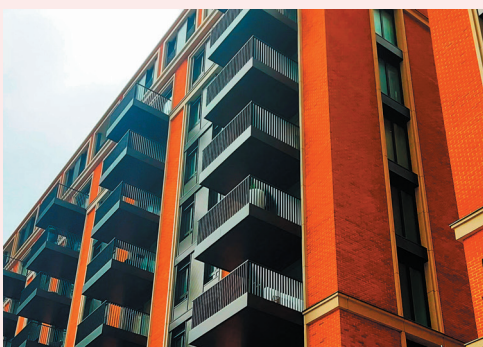


## KEYS TO A NEW HOME

**A**s the Church Street Regeneration Programme progresses, our relocations team is busy supporting our tenants and leaseholders into new homes to facilitate the regeneration.

We spoke to residents who had recently moved to the new homes at West End Gate about their experience. Mr Tawfik Mirza Ali, who has just moved into his new property, said "I'm very happy with my flat which is a great improvement for me, and I'm glad for the support I received along the way."

The new homes at West End Gate are vital in enabling residents to move either permanently or temporarily while the new homes on Church Street are built.



All the homes include private balcony space

## GET HELP TO START WORK AND BUILD A CAREER

**If you are a Church Street resident you can take advantage of the Westminster Employment Service:**

- ▶ Free personal employment coach for up to a year
- ▶ Help set life and work goals
- ▶ Work at your own pace and interests
- ▶ Help produce CVs, write compelling personal statements and deliver persuasive interviews
- ▶ Coaching for personal and professional development
- ▶ Ongoing support when you are in work

Email [employmentteam@westminster.gov.uk](mailto:employmentteam@westminster.gov.uk) or call **0207 641 2968** for more.

