

# CHURCH STREET NEWS

Bringing you the latest news from the neighbourhood of Church Street

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## GREEN LIGHT GIVEN TO CHURCH STREET SITES A, B & C

**P**lanning permission was granted on 28 March 2023, marking a key milestone in the progression of the scheme.

The planning committee unanimously voted in favour of the scheme which will build up to 1,120 new homes with over 50% of these affordable. The plans will see at least 156 new council homes for social rent in addition to the replacement of all existing council homes. Every Secure Tenant and Resident Leaseholder will have the option to return to a high quality new home at Church Street. The proposals will also see improvements to public spaces, the market and a new Church Street Library.

[Read more on page 2.](#)



## MOVING FORWARD ON SITE A

**W**e would like to thank local residents, community groups, businesses and many others for their valuable contributions towards developing the scheme to this point in time. We know there is still lots more work to come in consulting and developing the future phases of the scheme in Sites B & C and the market. Looking ahead, we now will be beginning to prepare to build the new homes for Church Street families and individuals to move into.

### PREPARING FOR CONSTRUCTION

As the first site to be built, we have been working with residents and businesses to prepare for demolition of storage units in the courtyard of Site A. This will be the first step in the demolition of the site.

Another important aspect of progressing the redevelopment is the appointment of a joint venture partner. To build the new Site A we need the expertise of contractors and specialists specifically for the purpose of taking forward the development. A 'joint venture' approach means the council will work with a partner to deliver the regeneration, whilst ensuring residents' interests are protected. The council is currently in the process of appointing a delivery partner.

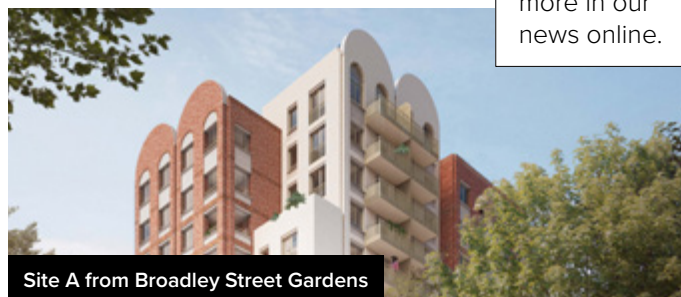
### FUTURE INVOLVEMENT

We want to hear from you about your priorities for how social value can be used to help the Church Street community. Are new activities for young people important? Would you like to see more training and skills opportunities? As part of our Fairer Westminster strategy we're holding a drop in at 35 Church Street on Thursday 20 April from 12pm to 3pm. Come along and have your say...

We are also looking for residents in Sites A,B and C interested in working alongside the council during the procurement of the joint venture partner, taking part in negotiations and evaluating social value proposals. If you would you like to find out more please contact us at [churchstreet@westminster.gov.uk](mailto:churchstreet@westminster.gov.uk) or visit us at our **Regeneration Base** at **99 Church Street**.



Planning permission awarded. Scan to read more in our news online.



Site A from Broadley Street Gardens



All social homes re-provided, with additional new council homes for social rent and London Living Rent homes being delivered



Overcrowded families will get the homes they need, better storage and space standards



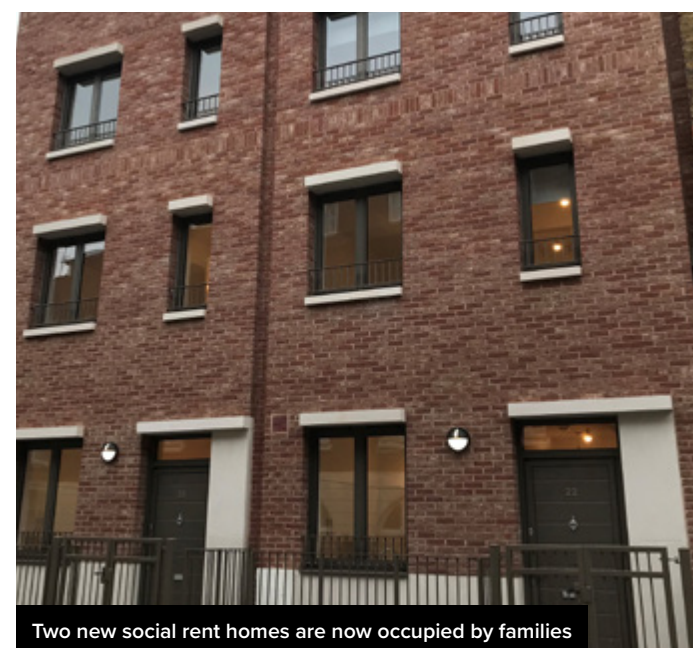
New green spaces and playspaces



A new Church Street Library



Street Market infrastructure improvements



Two new social rent homes are now occupied by families

## TRULY AFFORDABLE HOMES COMPLETE AT SHROTON STREET

**T**wo new social rent houses have now completed in Shroton Street (previously known as the Ashmill development), bringing new truly affordable family homes to the area.

Both homes are three stories, with four bedrooms and we're excited to have already welcomed new families into their new home. The homes are built to improved space standards providing much needed storage space, whilst air source heat pumps ensure energy use is more sustainable. In nearby Ashbridge Street, 26 homes available for social rent will also be expected to complete in the forthcoming months.



NHS Children's health team



Marylebone Bangladesh Society

## CHURCH STREET MONTHLY COMMUNITY MARKET IS BACK!

JOIN US!

**C**hurch Street saw the welcome return for our monthly community market which took place on Thursday 16 March. We were joined by Marylebone Bangladesh Society, NHS School Health team and the Westminster Libraries Community outreach team.

We're always looking for local community organisations to take part, so if you would like to participate in a future community market, please email us at [churchstreet@westminster.gov.uk](mailto:churchstreet@westminster.gov.uk)

The community market takes place on the third Thursday of the month between 10am to 2pm. The next date for your calendar is 20 April.

## BOOK OF DREAMS PROJECT

**T**he book of dreams has been a successful and popular project over the last few years that has brought together a range of local people from different cultural backgrounds and ages.

The 'You, Me, Plants, Stories and Tea' Book of Dreams project started as a response to an idea on how to value and enrich individual's lives and has been running at Penfold hub and at the Portman Children's Centre.

The multisensory approach to storytelling, this year combined with inspiration from the natural world, is all about increasing wellbeing and inspiring connections. It had been supported with funding from the council's Neighbourhood Keepers programme.

Penfold Hub runs free events and activities within the community, visit [westminstercommunityinfo.org](http://westminstercommunityinfo.org) and search for 'Penfold Hub' for more information.



Residents taking part in the project



# GREENING WESTMINSTER PROGRAMME

**I**f you're a business owner or Westminster resident and are considering making your place of work or community greener, you can apply for a grant with our new Greening Westminster programme. Interested?

Register your interest today at [westminster.gov.uk/place-shaping/greening-westminster](https://westminster.gov.uk/place-shaping/greening-westminster)



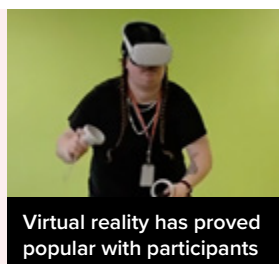
## VIRTUAL REALITY TECHNOLOGY TO TACKLE YOUTH VIOLENCE

**I**n partnership with the Fred Company, we are trialling an innovative new method for tackling serious youth violence by using Virtual Reality (VR) headsets across Westminster. Evidence suggests VR technology can be a useful tool in reducing symptoms of depression and PTSD, and the project has a cognitive neuroscientist who works alongside staff to deliver the sessions.

A series of weekly workshops with young people and families affected by violence and criminal activity have included fishing, nature treks, cooking and go-karting. The VR sessions are used to promote relaxation and reduce stress and anxiety. The workshops are proving to be beneficial to individuals and families that have experienced community isolation, by bringing them together to meet other people and share experiences.

Westminster residents taking part in the current programme has been overwhelmingly positive, with one young person saying:

*“There have been days where I would come in and would be really angry and upset, and my mood has just shifted. I put the headset on and just feel much better after. It's wicked, I love it.”*



Virtual reality has proved popular with participants

## PUTTING A STOP TO ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR (ASB)

**R**esults from our City Survey shows that ASB rates highly on the list of priorities that residents believe the council should be tackling and we want you to know that your voice has been heard.

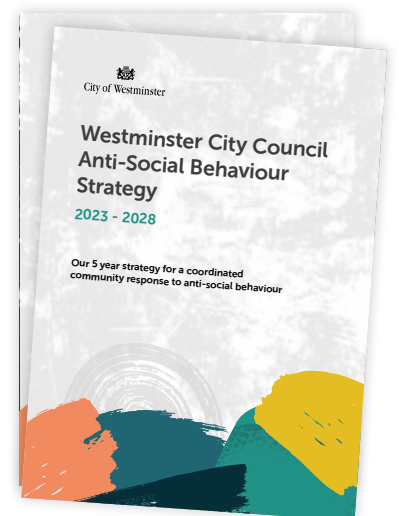
That is why we have been working together with partners, victims, residents, and businesses to create a five-year ASB strategy which will ensure everyone in Westminster feels safe and welcome, and victims of ASB know where to go for help and support.

The strategy will tackle the root causes of anti-social behaviour – through investing in communities, increasing opportunities and improving the places that people live.

Read more about our community led approach to tackling ASB at [westminster.gov.uk/asb-strategy](https://westminster.gov.uk/asb-strategy)

### NEED TO REPORT ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR (ASB)?

If you are a Westminster Housing tenant, you can report this type of behaviour by visiting our website at [westminster.gov.uk/report-it](https://westminster.gov.uk/report-it)



## FIND OUT MORE

### GO ONLINE

You can also keep track of the latest news on the Church Street website at [churchstreet.org](https://churchstreet.org)

### IF YOU HAVE A QUESTION

Please email us at [churchstreet@westminster.gov.uk](mailto:churchstreet@westminster.gov.uk)

### SPEAK IN PERSON

Contact us to talk a member of our Regeneration Team at **020 7641 2968**

You can also visit us at **Regeneration Base, 99 Church Street, NW8 8EY**. Open from Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm.