

Issue 39, Spring 2025

Produced by Wandsworth Council to help keep you informed about the renewal of your estate

Alton News



Early Improvement Plan
progress updates

Preparing for London
Borough of Culture

Alton
RENEWAL PLAN

W: wandsworth.gov.uk/alton
: altonrenewal.co.uk
X : @AltonRenewal

 Wandsworth



You said...

You wanted improved community facilities and better youth and family services.

Block A

We have been progressing the design work to develop proposals for new community and residential buildings (known as 'Block A') at the entrance to the estate, to deliver a state-of-the-art library, youth club, council offices, community spaces and new council homes.

Following consultation last year where residents asked why Block A was outside the larger housing renewal development area, we have brought Block A back into the proposals to ensure that it fits seamlessly into the wider scheme.

The design team from HTA have been reviewing designs in light of the revised setting in which the block will come forward; namely that Allbrook House, directly opposite the Block A site, is no longer proposed for demolition, and that the previously proposed 'village square' will be relocated to enable



a landmark community building to be built at the entrance to the estate.

Engagement with residents and other community and council stakeholders has begun and will continue in earnest over the upcoming months.

Alton Activity Centre and Downshire Field: Design updates

Exciting progress continues on the Alton Activity Centre and Downshire Field, with ground site investigations completed in early February 2025 to prepare for construction starting in Summer 2025.

These essential steps mark a significant milestone in the Alton Renewal Plan's journey to deliver enhanced facilities and green spaces for the community.

The design team has been working diligently to refine the proposals, drawing on invaluable feedback from the Youth Advisory Panel (YAP) to ensure the plans meet the needs and aspirations of local residents, especially younger members of the community.

At the **Alton Activity Centre**, the design focuses on creating a space that balances fun, creativity,

and inclusivity. Play equipment is being upgraded to offer modern, engaging features for children of all ages and abilities. The new layout includes areas dedicated to younger children as well as dynamic spaces for older youth to enjoy. Thoughtful details, such as sensory play zones and shaded seating, aim to create an environment that is welcoming and accessible to families and caregivers.

Downshire Field, a treasured green space at the heart of the Alton Estate, will undergo a transformation to enhance its usability, while maintaining its natural charm. Pathways are being redesigned to provide step-free access, allowing all members of the community to enjoy the field with ease. The addition of informal play areas, seamlessly integrated into the landscape, will encourage exploration and creativity. New planting schemes, designed to boost biodiversity and create a more sustainable environment, will further enrich this beloved space.

Both projects reflect a commitment to sustainability, accessibility, and community-focused design. By addressing key aspects such as play spaces, pathways, and green areas, the enhancements aim to foster a stronger sense of community and create spaces where everyone feels welcome.

We look forward to breaking ground this summer and will keep you updated as work progresses.



Youth Advisory Panel Workshop: February/March Highlights and What's Next

The Youth Advisory Panel (YAP) remains an integral part of the Alton Renewal Plan, ensuring that young voices are at the heart of shaping our community's future.

In February, the YAP gathered for an engaging workshop focusing on the finer details of the Alton Renewal Plan. YAP members came together for their third interactive session, to provide invaluable feedback on the proposed layouts, public spaces, and community facilities. The March workshop offered a platform for attendees to share their perspectives on the proposals for Block A, ensuring the designs - particularly for the youth spaces - reflect the needs and aspirations of the younger community.

We were inspired by the creativity and passion shown by our young advisors and are incorporating their input into the ongoing design process.

The next workshop, scheduled for May, will delve into the technical details of the designs for the Alton Activity Centre and Downshire Field. This session will also provide an



opportunity for participants to share their final thoughts as we move closer to the implementation phase of these projects.

Unveiling of the Restored Bull Statue

The famous Grade II* listed bronze Bull statue by Robert Clatworthy has been restored to its former glory by Heritage of London Trust (HOLT), in collaboration with the Alton Renewal Team. 'Bull' was originally installed on Downshire Field in 1961, at the request of the Alton Estate's architects.



Representatives from HOLT and the Alton Renewal team unveil the Bull with the Mayor of Wandsworth and Alton School student Jeremiah

On a crisp, bright, winter's morning in late November, residents of Roehampton came along to see the results of the restoration and listen to beautiful poetry written especially for the occasion by pupils of Roehampton Church Forest School. The Mayor of Wandsworth, Cllr Sana Jafri, and a student from The Alton School, Jeremiah, unveiled the shiny new bull; much to everyone's delight.

Afterwards, guests were invited to the Alton Arts Hub to enjoy a delicious Spanish-themed buffet, and a raffle draw to win a cuddly, soft bull.

'Bull'

Poem by Isaac, Roehampton Church Forest School

*Strong, tough, rough, plenty big enough
And plenty power that you hold
I wonder what you behold
Because you are 63 years old
Many things you have seen
You great big bronze beast
Families, dogs, people on the bus
You have seen them all
Children playing every day
But there are differences in every way.
You great big giant
While we watch you, you're so silent.*





You said...

You wanted more council homes and more affordable homes, help with overcrowding and a better balance between the density of homes and local green space.

Alton Estate Regeneration Update

We've been busy with HTA Design over the past few months, developing plans for the Alton estate. The focus has been around three key areas: Danebury Avenue neighbourhood, the existing site of 166/168 Roehampton Lane, and Portswood Place.

Firstly, we welcomed the community to our 'Designing Danebury' sessions in November and December. Those sessions looked at opportunities for new retail, new homes, and public realm improvements in the form of a public square on the existing location of the Allbrook carpark.

In February, the team organised an invitation-only event at the Alton Arts Hub, which provided those residents living in the proposed demolition area an opportunity to speak to the team in more detail about the emerging plans. This drop-in enabled conversations around resident concerns, but also the merits of the proposals from the perspective of those most directly affected.

On 1 March, we invited the community to the Family Hub, to look at the past, present and future projects of the Alton Renewal Plan. It provided a chance to learn more about the emerging proposals for the site of 166/168 Roehampton



Lane and the Portswood Place neighbourhood, in addition to the developing proposals for Danebury Avenue. Scale models of the proposals were particularly popular amongst the attendees, helping them to understand the plans in the context of the existing area.

On 5 March, we hosted a public drop-in at Roehampton Library for residents who couldn't attend the previous sessions to see the emerging plans for the Alton and help share the future of housing, shops, community and open spaces on the estate. A copy of the exhibition boards displayed at these sessions can be downloaded from the Alton websites (see front cover).

Further consultation and engagement will follow in the coming months as opportunities are developed. Please keep an eye on our media channels, noticeboards and weekly information stall for more information. We will also continue to update our display boards in the library, and feedback comment cards are available there too.

Your feedback is invaluable in helping to shape a preferred option, which will be subject to a resident ballot, on target to run in late 2025. In the meantime, please keep your thoughts and comments coming!

Homes for Wandsworth programme update



Proposals for land adjacent to Farnborough House:

Since achieving Planning Approval in 2024, the design teams have been busy developing the construction design and enabling works packages, to allow the start of the diversion works of existing services (BT/Fibre, gas & electricity) in and around the site, which has started and will be ongoing.

We are currently undertaking a tender process to find a suitable, skilled, main contractor to deliver the new scheme.

Our target date for starting on site is by early autumn 2025.



Homes for Wandsworth

Proposals for land at Bessborough Road:

As with our Farnborough House scheme, our design team have been busy developing the construction design and we are now undertaking a tender process to find an experienced, specialist, main contractor to deliver the new scheme and wider works.

Our target date for starting on site is by early summer 2025.

Once the above tenders are completed and we have decided on the main contractor for each scheme, we will be writing to residents again to update on the next steps, including when we will be holding 'Meet the Contractor' events.



You said...

You wanted improved estate management, open space to be protected, and to feel safer.

We have...

Repaired roads and pavements

We have been mending roads and pavements across the Alton estate where they need the most attention.

Worked with local community groups and stakeholders to identify and develop plans to address concerns about community safety, including:

- completing an estate walkabout with the Roehampton Safer Neighbourhood Team, Wandsworth Housing team, and the Designing Out Crime Officer to plan for safer communal spaces

- attending the SW15 Women's Network White Ribbon Walk to help raise awareness around male violence against women and girls
- holding monthly meetings with Wandsworth Housing, the Roehampton Safer Neighbourhood Team and Community Safety to discuss priority addresses and individuals
- recruiting a new dedicated Community Safety Support Officer, Leo Bunting, who started in February and is based on the Alton Estate. The new post within the Safer and Stronger Communities Team will involve working with partners to respond to crime and anti-social behaviour issues across the Alton, supporting the wider work of the Renewal team. This will include leading on projects and initiatives such as Neighbourhood Watch, Wandsworth Business Against Crime, and regular community engagement events, in addition to bringing partners and agencies together through a joint action plan. The post will support the ongoing work of the current Community Safety Officer to build strong relationships with residents, local businesses and organisations.

And we plan...

To continue working to tackle anti-social behaviour and crime on the estate by:

- holding regular multi-agency meetings to tackle priority addresses and individuals, making use of mapping tools
- rolling out Neighbourhood Watch to residents, which is a great opportunity to connect with your neighbours and build a stronger, more resilient community, and share crime prevention advice. Visit ourwatch.org.uk or contact the Wandsworth Neighbourhood Watch Association via wandsworthnwassociation@gmail.com for more information.

- rolling out Wandsworth Business Against Crime to local businesses to improve communications, linked with Wandsworth Council and your local policing team, to deter crime and anti-social behaviour in businesses and licensed premises
- holding monthly engagement events/drop-in sessions to speak with the Community Safety team about any concerns you'd like to raise in relation to anti-social behaviour, crime and safety.

**Wandsworth
Community Safety
Partnership**





Chantelle Bent trialling the cargo bike

You said...

You wanted better accessibility with improvements to local bus services, new access to Richmond Park and better routes through the estate.

We have...

Introduced special outings with Roehampton Transport Club

In addition to the minibus' regular schedule (see Alton News, Issue 38), there is a rotating half-day special outing every fortnight. The outings are designed for anyone who struggles to use public transport.

To join Roehampton Transport Club, fill out a membership form on the council's website (search 'Roehampton

2025 outings calendar

Date	Destination
Thursday 17 April	Kew Gardens (free entry)
Wednesday 7 May	Isabella Plantation, Richmond Park
Thursday 15 May	Isabella Plantation, Richmond Park
Wednesday 4 June	Eastbourne
Thursday 19 June	Eastbourne
Wednesday 2 July	Worthing
Thursday 17 July	Worthing

Transport Club'), call 020 8675 3812, or complete a paper form and return it to Wandsworth Community Transport, 1b Yukon Road, Balham, SW12 9PZ or email it to info@wctbus.org.uk Make sure to book on quickly, as spaces on the bus are limited and will book up soon!

Provided a cargo bike to rent

Chantelle's Community Kitchen is the host of Wandsworth's newest community cargo bike. Cargo bikes offer an eco-friendly and efficient way to transport people and goods around the borough, and cost just £3 per hour to rent. The bike can carry up to 2 kids or 1 adult, carry all kinds of cargo ranging from furniture to food deliveries, and keeps your items dry with the rain cover provided. You can ride effortlessly with the electric assistance and travel up to 50km on a full charge. The council also offers free cargo bike training. Search 'cargo bikes' on the council website to find out more.

Set up an Access and Inclusion Steering Group

The purpose of the group is to bring together residents to discuss the accessibility of the estate currently, and to work with the design team to help shape the design development to ensure improved accessibility in the future.

The group currently includes residents who use mobility scooters/motorised wheelchairs and people with health issues.

We would particularly welcome participation from parents who use pushchairs and people aged 60+, but would love to hear from anyone who would be interested in being involved. Please contact jo.baxter@richmondandwandsworth.gov.uk for more information.



You said...

You wanted more shops and businesses together with more skills, training and employment opportunities.

We have...

Recruited a new Arts and Events Manager

Introducing **Natalie Omari**

"My name is Natalie, and I'm excited to introduce myself as your new Arts and Events Manager. Over the next year, I'll be working with you to bring more arts and cultural opportunities right here to the Alton Estate, as part of the renewal programme and Wandsworth's journey as London Borough of Culture 2025.

My role is to make sure everyone living on the Alton has the chance to participate in and benefit from this celebration of culture, whether that's through exciting events, workshops, or opportunities to share your own ideas and stories.

I'm here to listen, collaborate, and help create meaningful projects that reflect what matters most to you. Together, we'll build something that not only celebrates the present but also leaves a lasting cultural legacy for the future.

Please don't hesitate to say hello, share your ideas, or get involved - I'd love to hear from you!" Natalie.Omari@richmondandwandsworth.gov.uk



Natalie Omari



Spreading the Joy from the Group 64 Youth Theatre - a show celebrating positive mental health

And we plan...

To celebrate the launch of LBoC!

Wandsworth is the Mayor of London's Borough of Culture 2025, and we want everyone to celebrate with us. The year kicks off this April and will be full of big cultural moments and local celebrations, including lots to do, see, and be part of in Roehampton.

The Wandsworth Arts Fringe will be back in June, bigger and better than ever, with performances and events in Roehampton including dance, children's events, a chance to connect through art, and Roopa Basu's Voices of Wandsworth bringing people together to contribute to a collective narrative. On 13 September on Downshire Field, Urban Flow will combine dance, martial arts, music and a stunning silk flag procession to shine a light on the beauty of Roehampton and the talent of its people.

Get more details of the programme and how to get involved at welcometowandsworth.com





You said...

Your heating bills were costly, you wanted improved resident wellbeing and a holistic approach taken to improve sustainability across the estate.

We have...

Distributed Warm Home Packs

A target of 1000 packs for the Alton Estate was reached and the scheme has been extended as the Climate Change team and CREW Energy continue to help residents save money. The packs are designed to help households reduce energy bills by as much as £200 a year. You can still collect a free pack, without an eligibility letter, from Roehampton Library or Chantelle's Community Kitchen whilst stocks last. For more information or to find out if you would benefit from a home visit, go to swleap.org.uk

Introduced Climate Action Microgrants

Climate Action Microgrants help fund events, activities and initiatives to promote positive action around climate change and sustainability. Microgrants of £100 to £500 are available to individuals, schools, groups and non-profits. If you would like to discuss your idea, receive an application form, ask any questions or request support to complete the application, email togetheronclimatechange@wandsworth.gov.uk

Organised a winter walk

At the end of January, we led a winter walk in conjunction with Community Bluescapes - a partnership organisation that works together for people and nature - to explore the local wildlife in Richmond Park.



Winter Walk

Installed new waste and recycling bins

The new bins make the area look tidier, cleaner, and more welcoming. They also come with better signage about what can and cannot be recycled to prevent contamination.

And we plan...

To plant a wildflower meadow

You have told us that you love the green spaces on the Alton, but you would like to see more care taken across the estate with more colour. Look out for a field of flowers popping up outside Roehampton Library in June. The flowers will help to improve biodiversity, including more bees.



Waste and recycling bins



ARP Community Drop-in

We welcomed over 140 people to our community drop-in event on Saturday 1 March to showcase the work that has taken place since we launched the Alton Renewal Plan (ARP) last summer and to get your help with upcoming projects.

We gathered your feedback on lighting, wayfinding, shop front improvements, housing designs, and much more.

Thank you to everyone who made the day possible - we look forward to seeing you again soon!

If you have any feedback on the event, please get in touch via the details on the back page.



Residents' Corner

“My name is Aryaman Rawat, and I’ve been a resident of the Alton for the past year. After reading the autumn edition of Alton News, I felt inspired by the rapid growth taking place in our community and wanted to share how this remarkable area has profoundly influenced my creative journey.

When I moved from New Delhi to pursue a Master’s in Music at Kingston University, I was nervous about what to expect from Roehampton; but it didn’t take long for it to feel like home. In fact, it has become the first place I can truly call home since moving to London.

Over the past year, the serene green spaces around Petersfield Rise provided me with the focus and inspiration I needed. It’s where I worked on Gapils, a Norwegian short film that premiered at Avgang ’24, a prestigious film festival in Norway, and Cat-astrophic, a game for which I created music and sound design. Cat-astrophic won ‘Most Polished Game’ at the Kingston University Game Jam and was later showcased at Develop: Brighton 2024, the UK’s largest game development event.

Whenever I felt creatively stuck, I’d hop on the free Roehampton Uni bus to Putney Bridge and walk along the Thames - it always cleared my head. On days when I got



Image: Aryaman Rawat

so caught up in my work that I forgot to cook, I was saved by my generous neighbours via the food sharing app Olio. Roehampton Library became a second home, where I’d spend hours with my laptop and headphones, developing demos and sketching out song ideas. I’m incredibly grateful to the council for maintaining such an inspiring area that fosters artistic growth.

Recently, I’ve started giving guitar lessons and music production classes to give back to the supportive and welcoming community that has given me so much. Sharing my skills and helping others explore their creativity has been incredibly fulfilling and has strengthened my connection to this area.

Looking back, Roehampton hasn’t just been a place to live - it’s been a community that has shaped my creativity and made this chapter of my life so much more meaningful and memorable.”

Over the past few months, the Alton team has been involved with a full and varied programme of events and activities on the Alton estate, including:



Volunteer Vicky Pigott by the Roehampton Christmas tree with young resident, Daniel



Claire Doran leading the Carols in the Library



Cllrs Tiller, Yates and Cooper with stall holders and event organisers at the Roehampton Christmas Market

A Festive Round up

Danebury Avenue sparkled with festive cheer as residents, of all ages, gathered for the fifth annual Roehampton **Christmas Tree Switch-on**.

Hundreds of lights adorned the enormous pine tree; its branches laden with baubles decorated by local children. The afternoon was filled with the sound of laughter and chatter as schoolchildren paraded the lit lanterns they had lovingly decorated. The afternoon culminated with choirs from Roehampton Church Forest School and Sacred Heart School singing songs they had been practising for weeks, whilst their parents/guardians looked on proudly.

Our 60+ residents enjoyed a night of dancing at our **Rockin into Christmas** event featuring a rock 'n' roll singer. A great evening was had by all at the Manresa Clubroom, which started with a delicious buffet of finger foods and

mince pies and ended with a boogie on the dance floor. The consensus was that it was one of the best nights of 2024!

The tempestuous weather brought on by Storm Darragh didn't stop the annual **Roehampton Christmas Market** or dampen the spirits of the attendees, who still came out in force. Young children bustled with excitement at the stalls overflowing with handcrafted gifts, cakes, and cookies, all made by local residents or organisations. Families found a warm respite at the much-loved Santa's Grotto, where children met the big fella and received a gift generously donated by the Putney Rotary Club. A local mum said, "Without a visit to the Christmas Market my kids wouldn't get to meet Santa, so I'm so grateful it didn't get cancelled". The cheerful sounds of Christmas songs were brought to us this year by students from Ibstock Place School, who received several encores.

Roehampton Library buzzed with festive cheer as residents gathered for **Carols in the Library** featuring local singing (and keyboard-playing!) sensation, Claire Doran. The usually quiet space was transformed with the sounds of singing, mingled with the aroma of mince pies and warmed mulled wine, which enticed everyone to join in the fun.



Love is Al-ton Around!

Love was definitely Al-ton around at our annual Valentine's crafting event in the library.

Attendees of all ages enjoyed decorating heart shaped biscuits, designing cards and creating key rings. From conversations we overheard, we are sure there were some giggles and blushes at school when cards were exchanged!



Sisterhood in Action

Local women celebrated International Women's Day at an event jointly organised by the SW15 Women's Network, Sanctuary 4 Sisterhood and the Alton Renewal team. The Mayor of Wandsworth joined women from the community as they engaged in hands-on activities such as candle making, sapling planting, and designing suncatchers.

One woman summed up the positivity in the room: "I am nothing on my own. It's all because of the help and support I get from all of you. And with each other's help, we will make Roehampton the best place; a happier and healthier place, where everyone is connected through love and respect."

SW15 Women's Network host a free Coffee Morning every Wednesday between 10.30am - 12.30pm during term time at the Alton Activity Centre, Ellisfield Drive. As well as refreshments, there are always activities to take part in and often guest speakers. All women are welcome!



Upcoming events and activities

Keep an eye on our community noticeboards, websites and X social media page for information on upcoming events and activities.



EGG-TASTIC EVENT

HOSTED BY THE ALTON RENEWAL TEAM & ROEHAMPTON LIBRARY

In Roehampton Library

THURSDAY 17TH APRIL

JOIN US FOR CRAFTING & A SCAVENGER HUNT

2.00 – 3.00 PM UNDER 5'S
3.00 – 4.00 PM OVER 5'S

IF YOU HAVE CHILDREN IN BOTH AGE GROUPS PLEASE ATTEND THE 2.00 – 3.00 PM SESSION

@ALTONRENEWAL @ROEHAMPTONL
WWW.ALTONRENEWAL.CO.UK

Sign up to receive text alerts

Our text message distribution list will enable residents to receive news and event information relating to the Alton Renewal quickly and directly.

If you are interested in signing up to receive our text alerts, please call or text **020 8871 6207** or email us at altonrenewal@wandsworth.gov.uk with your name, address, mobile phone number and the phrase/subject line **'Alton text alerts'**, and we will add you to our SMS distribution list.

Alton Newsletter have your say!

The Alton Team try to put together news and articles that we think you'd like to read.

Do you enjoy it? Is it relevant and of interest? What else would you like included?

We'd appreciate your feedback to help shape future editions.

Please send any complimentary comments or constructive criticism to our mailbox altonrenewal@wandsworth.gov.uk putting **'NEWSLETTER FEEDBACK'** in the subject line.

Or call us on **020 8871 6207**.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Alton Team Contact Details

You can contact the Alton Renewal Team on **020 8871 6207** or [@AltonRenewal](https://www.instagram.com/AltonRenewal) or at wandsworth.gov.uk/alton

If you would like to discuss anything in person with a member of the team, please contact us and an appointment can be arranged.

You can also find us at the Information Stall **outside the Base** on Danebury Avenue each **Friday, from 2pm-4pm.**

Roehampton Ward Councillors

Councillor Jenny Yates

cllr.j.yates@wandsworth.gov.uk

Councillor Matthew Tiller

cllr.m.tiller@wandsworth.gov.uk

Councillor Graeme Henderson

cllr.g.henderson@wandsworth.gov.uk

You can also contact the Cabinet Member for Housing:

Councillor Aydin Dikerdem

cllr.a.dikerdem@wandsworth.gov.uk

Councillor advice sessions are held on the **first Saturday of every month at Roehampton Library, 2 Danebury Avenue, from 11am - 12 noon.**

Listening to you

Wandsworth Council's 7 rings, 7 day guarantee

Every household now gets **two free bulky waste collections a year.**

Book yours today at wandsworth.gov.uk/bulkywaste

7 rings

Call us **020 8871 6000** and a member of staff will pick up in **7 rings***

7 days

Report graffiti, a broken street sign or a dangerous pothole and we will fix it within **7 days**



0208 871 6000

hello@wandsworth.gov.uk
wandsworth.gov.uk/listening

*Phone line open 9am-5pm, Monday to Friday, except bank holidays.