



Welcome



Introduction from Cllr David Norman

Dear resident...

“ Many thanks to those residents who were able to attend the update session at the start of March. For those who could not, then this newsletter is focused on providing you with a detailed update. I myself was unable to attend due to ill health but my colleague Cllr Gilbert was happy to take my place and chair the meeting.

Those at the meeting heard from members of the project team on how we believe the regeneration can best be taken forward.

Although more work needs to be done ahead of a June 2016 Cabinet report and no final decisions on the tower blocks have been made, at this stage we feel that the tower blocks will need to come down. This is because to truly achieve the objectives of the project which include delivering better housing and a better place, and create an estate that is better designed with improved public spaces and links to the town centre, then it is currently felt that this cannot be done by keeping the tower blocks.

This is a once in a generation opportunity to create a new community that Southend-on-Sea can be proud of, and all those living within it can be proud of and I am pleased we are making good progress. As promised you will be involved every step of the way and some future events are planned to seek your views.

Another resident update session will be held in June and I look forward to seeing you then.

Cllr David Norman,
Executive Councillor for Housing



Tower blocks – the future

Significant work has been done thus far, including work to look at the viability and costs of keeping the tower blocks and we have held events to engage with the local community and find out how we can improve the environment for them. Following this and looking at some design options, we have come to the view at this stage that to achieve all that we want to, then it is likely that the tower blocks need to come down.

This would enable us to create a wonderful new community, with new and better housing, improved infrastructure and links to the town, better public spaces and create a place that people want to live.

No final decisions have been made – we are about to undertake a ‘soft market testing’ exercise which involves talking to private sector companies. We also need to develop more detailed options and talk to residents about those. We must also go through the council’s decision making process over the Summer which will set out a preferred option moving forward.



FUTURE FOR RESIDENTS

Of course opinion will be split on the future of the tower blocks, but all residents that want to remain a part of the Queensway community can do so, and we will continue to engage and talk to you about the future of the estate as we move forwards.

We will also be holding more leaseholder sessions – for resident and non-resident leaseholders to discuss future options.

However as was emphasised at the meeting, there is still much work to be done to make the regeneration a reality, and there will be no need for any resident to move for at least two years.

We also reiterated at the meeting that once construction does start we will do our very best to minimise disruption to people, and where we can we will try to only move you once – we would be able to do this by building some new properties before any potential demolition takes place – this is because the project site also includes the temporary car park at Essex Street and the land at the Short Street car parks.

For more information visit www.southend.gov.uk/betterqueensway or email betterqueensway@southend.gov.uk

RESIDENT UPDATE SESSION

7th March 2016



FUTURE ENGAGEMENT EVENTS

We will be holding a number of engagement events in the future, including a further resident update session in June and events that will offer you a chance to have your say as the project moves forward. We will notify you of these in good time.

Site visits

Some of you attended a trip to see some regeneration sites in and around London. We intend to run more of these – please indicate your interest by emailing: betterqueensway@southend.gov.uk with your name and contact details so we can let you know when more get arranged.