

DECEMBER 2024

# Sawyers Close Newsletter



**Welcome to our latest newsletter for the customers of Sawyers Close and the neighbouring community. It brings together all our news and information to let you know what's happening at Sawyers Close as we prepare for the new development.**

## A new name

Earlier this year we asked you to come up with ideas for a name for the new development. This followed a real desire from existing customers for the new development to have a fresh identity, rather than being called Sawyers Close.

We would like to thank everybody for their ideas. We had loads of great suggestions which we discussed with the Resident Partnership Group and local ward councillors before making our decision.

Now for the drum roll as we unveil the name...

'The Granges' which was chosen by local resident Dr Anthony Lewis.

(A grange is a large house in the countryside with farm buildings connected to it.)

Anthony suggested the name due to its local historical significance. There are many old large historical buildings in the local area, including Sutherland Grange, Dedworth Manor and Oakley Court. (And not forgetting the grandest of them all up the road, Windsor Castle.)

We met up with Anthony to find out a little bit more about how he landed on 'The Granges'.

Anthony said: "During the pandemic I discovered all these networks of foot paths that I never knew existed. It was on these walks that I came across grand old houses such as Sutherland Grange and Oakley Court.

"I felt The Granges is a name that really celebrates the history of the area and its buildings."

We will continue to use Sawyers Close as the name for the existing development and will roll out The Granges over time as the regeneration progresses.



**Community Development Officer Danielle Welburn congratulates Dr Anthony Lewis for his winning suggestion**



# Name suggestions to RBWM

We are now ready to suggest names for the nine blocks and two roads in the new development to the Royal Borough of Windsor & Maidenhead (RBWM).

Although RBWM has the final say on names we can make suggestions for them to consider.

Some of the proposed names below come from your original community suggestions. We have added others which keep within the overall theme of The Granges and the area where you live.

To note - We do not have to name all the properties as they will be numbered by RBWM.

## Potential Street Names:

- **Granges Avenue** (the new road)
- **Sutherland Close** (replacement name for existing Sawyers Close road)

## Potential Building Names:

- Local historical – **Dorney, Oakley, Manor, Castle, Sutherland**
- Countryside – **Riverside, Parkside, Meadows, Orchard, Pastures, Waterside, Waters view, Waters Reach**
- Farm/Windsor racing – **The Stables, The Stands, Ridings**

If you have any thoughts on these names or any new ideas, we would love to see them. Please contact us at [SawyersCloseTeam@abri.co.uk](mailto:SawyersCloseTeam@abri.co.uk) by **Wednesday 18th December**.





## Upcoming Site works

Last week you should have all received a letter from Hill, our construction partner, about the upcoming works on site. In case you missed it, the proposed site works this December includes:

- Electric cable works - Trench digging and then installation of a low voltage cable by Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks (SSEN) to provide electricity to Phase 1 (Block D).
- Road works including traffic lights to commence on Smiths Lane subject to Highways Approval. This will take about three weeks and will be carried out to allow Hill to lower the kerbs to the site entrance. A part road closure will be required including a Traffic light system to control the traffic.
- Play equipment removal from the old play area & ground levelling
- Openreach will be carrying out diversion works as the existing network cable runs through the proposed building area. A diversion is necessary to ensure continued service and clear the way for the new development.
- Tree removal - Several trees will be removed to make space for the new development. This was approved as part of the planning requirement. The soft landscape plan for the redevelopment ensures that the equivalent of whatever is being taken away will be replaced and will include shrubs, hedge and planting as well as trees.

We understand these works may cause some disruption, and we will do everything possible to minimise it. If you have any questions or need more information, please contact Hill at [residents@hill.co.uk](mailto:residents@hill.co.uk) or on **0800 032 6760**.

We will keep you updated as the redevelopment gathers pace and keep you informed of the works that are planned.

We will keep you updated via a combination of face-to-face meetings, email, letters, the digital boards in your blocks, the Sawyers Close website and this newsletter.

## Building work start update

As we mentioned in the last newsletter, we need approval from the Building Safety Regulator before we can start building work. We are still awaiting this approval and our aim remains to start building work in early 2025.

## Parking permit scheme to go ahead following consultation

You will remember that we wrote to you in August asking your views on a proposed parking permit scheme at Sawyers Close. We hand delivered the consultation to all 192 addresses and received the following responses:

**Yes votes 179 residents** - 167 residents did not return their form and as set out in the consultation letter, any unreturned forms would be taken as a yes vote to accept the scheme. 12 residents responded yes.

**No votes 13 residents** – That a permit scheme is not introduced and that there is no scheme in place to prevent non residents parking on Abri land at Sawyers Close

Following this outcome, the parking permit scheme will go ahead.

- Those living in a 1 bed/studio flat will be issued 1 resident parking permit
- Those living in a 2 or 3 bed flat will be issued a maximum of 2 resident parking permits
- Each property will receive one visitor permit

Abri will instruct a contractor to mark out the existing bays at Sawyers and also add additional bays, where possible. We will be back in touch with a date for this, as we will need to ask that residents move their vehicles to enable this to happen. Following this, in the new year, we will contact you as to how the permits will be issued.

For more information please contact **Phil Rowe** at [hello@abri.co.uk](mailto:hello@abri.co.uk) or **0300 123 1567**



# Helping residents find new properties outside Sawyers Close

*Read on to learn about one young family's recent move*

Some families may be looking to relocate to a new home in the local area before the redevelopment at Sawyers Close is built.

Abri's Resettlement team recently helped Calista and her young family move from Sawyers Close to a larger house in Bracknell.



We caught up with Calista less than a week after moving into her new home. She showed us around the house, with rooms fitted out with new carpets and curtains, as well as looking at the garden.

Explaining why she is happy she moved, Calista said: "I have two young children, and I had outgrown the flat at Sawyers Close.

"The best things about moving here have been the extra space, the opportunity to have a garden and the fact the area is so quiet."

Calista also praised close working with the resettlement team, saying: "Janet Richardson, my Resettlement Officer, has been there since day one, helping me every step of the move.

"Everything happened really quickly. From being nominated to Bracknell, to then moving in, has taken just over a month.

"Abri organised the removal service and the guys who came were really nice and efficient – it only took four hours door to door for them to pack up and then move me in here."

And already the move is working well for Calista. Her eldest child is settling well into her new school, with Abri helping provide some of the costs towards school items, and Calista is looking forward to starting her new job in the local area soon.

Her final words of advice to residents debating whether to move to find more suitable accommodation are these:

"Just be open minded. For instance, Windsor to Bracknell is not as far as you think it is – and I'm really looking forward to going Christmas shopping here!"

Since we carried out our housing needs assessment, we have helped nine households either downsize or move to a larger property elsewhere in Windsor or the neighbouring area.

If you think moving to a more suitable property might be for you, or if you have any other housing queries, please contact your local resettlement officers at [hello@abri.co.uk](mailto:hello@abri.co.uk)

# What's Coming up

## Friday 6 December: 10am-12noon

Christmas Craft Activity with The Green Skills Library, Sawyers Close Community Room

## Saturday 7 December at 10:30am-12:30pm

Last Community Garden Session with BBOWT, Community Garden, come along to make bug hotels and tidy the garden for winter. Have you seen the new picnic tables too. These were funded by Travis Perkins through the Social Value fund.

## Saturday 14 December at 11:30am-1:30pm

Free Festive Family Fun! Spend time cooking and eating as a family, all food provided. Dedworth Library Community Hall, Smiths Lane, SL4 5PE Contact Nicky. [bhatoey-turnbull@groundwork.org.uk](mailto:bhatoey-turnbull@groundwork.org.uk) or 07736 132922 to book your place!

## Until Monday 16 December at 10.30am - 11.15am

Pilates Delivered by Maidenhead Magpies - Sawyers Close Community Room first session free then £3 per session. Book your place with Madeleine 07482116710 email: [madeleine@maidenheadunitedfc-community.org](mailto:madeleine@maidenheadunitedfc-community.org)

## Every Monday 1pm - 2.30pm

(closed Mon 30 December restarting Mon 8 January) – Coffee Afternoon, Sawyers Close Community Room

## Every Wednesday 10am – 12noon

(closed Weds 25 December restarting Weds 8 January) – Opportunities Hub, Sawyers Close Community Room

Please contact **Danielle Welburn** Community Development Officer – **07880107269** Email **[Danielle.welburn@abri.co.uk](mailto:danielle.welburn@abri.co.uk)** for more information on our community activities.



## Fire safety work in your home and block

This is a reminder about the fire safety work we need to carry out in your homes and blocks to keep you safe. At the moment we are getting in touch with you to install fire alarms in your property. This month you will also be contacted by our contractor The Bell Group as they need to carry out an initial survey on all individual front doors and communal doors. This survey is ahead of all these doors being replaced later in 2025.

To note if you live in Hale or Winwood: We have identified that the location marked as muster points might be fenced off for construction purposes. Please don't worry. If there is any event of fire in your property, please move outside to a place of safety and call 999 to inform the local fire rescue services.

We understand these requests can be frustrating, but they are essential to keep you all safe and we appreciate your co-operation and understanding. If you have any questions, please contact **[buildingsafety@abri.co.uk](mailto:buildingsafety@abri.co.uk)** or call **0300 123 1 567**





## Round up

It's been a busy couple of months as the community development team and local residents have got stuck into a wide range of activities.

The Community Room at Sawyers Close is now up and running with plenty of sessions taking place, including energy efficiency cookery classes, pilates, coffee afternoons and the opportunities hub.

We also held a street art workshop which was well attended and led by local artist Alexis Milne. The end result is a great mural brightening up the white wall near the play area – why not walk up and take a look for yourself?



Alongside this we organised a trip to the Berks, Bucks, Oxon Wildlife Trust Education Centre situated within Windsor Great Park. Families took part in an interactive nature trail where they learnt observation skills to help them solve a “who dunnit” nature crime.

## Resident Partnership Group

The Resident Partnership Group met on 14 November. We discussed community activities, regeneration updates and the recent parking consultation. We received updates from the Home Connections Resettlement Officers. The Home Connections Group Manager will be attending the December meeting and the Housing Manager will be attending January to answer your questions.

Please feel free to email the Resident Partnership Group at [Sawyers.residents@gmail.com](mailto:Sawyers.residents@gmail.com) with any questions or concerns regarding the regeneration, as the group can bring questions to the meetings on your behalf.

## This newsletter has gone digital

This is the first digital edition of the newsletter. We hope you have all received it stress free in your inbox but if you or any of your neighbours have had any issues, such as needing to update your email address, please get in touch with us at **[SawyersCloseTeam@abri.co.uk](mailto:SawyersCloseTeam@abri.co.uk)**

We also have printed copies available in the Sawyers Close Community Space.