

ABERFELDY NEWS



ISSUE 3

PUBLIC CONSULTATION: WHAT YOU'VE TOLD US

Thank you to everyone who took part in the first round of public consultation on the Aberfeldy New Masterplan at the end of last year.

More than 2,800 people visited the online consultation hub and 200 people completed a survey either online or by post.

You told us your priorities for Aberfeldy are



Improved facilities and connectivity, including places for people to get together and transport options.



Making the neighbourhood safer, where the community functions and grows together.



Improved public space which is free and open to everyone.



New homes, particularly affordable and social rent housing.



Find up to date information on local community support in the pandemic, including food projects, on page 10.



SUPPORT FOR REGENERATION

Nearly two thirds of Poplar residents, 64%, including those who don't live on the estate, said they support or strongly support the regeneration of Aberfeldy and our vision, with only 11% opposed or strongly opposed about the idea. The remaining 25% are undecided at the moment about the regeneration.



Your community has shown very strong support for:

- The layout of the masterplan
- Plans for reducing traffic, by calming Abbott Road
- A mix and diversity of non-residential uses
- The delivery of up to 1,880 new homes.

We feel these results only strengthen the case for our planning application to the Council for the redevelopment of Aberfeldy to provide a combination of new housing, community facilities, commercial and open spaces. Our planning application will:

- Look at the challenges and opportunities for Aberfeldy as a whole
- Keep the local vibrancy and strong feeling of community
- Improve facilities and connectivity, such as transport and public spaces
- Provide many new homes for existing and future residents.



You can find more on what your community have told us on Commonplace:

🔗 aberfeldynewmasterplan.commonplace.is

WHAT'S NEXT

Stage 2 public consultation

Now is the time for us to think about the changes we will make to the masterplan, using what you've told us. If you haven't got in touch yet, there are still plenty more opportunities for you to tell us what you think. The second stage of public consultation is expected to take place in Spring 2021. We will contact you again closer to this time.



Residents' Steering Group

The Residents' Steering Group (RSG) has a major say in decisions about the regeneration and have been involved throughout the process. The RSG are currently being consulted on shaping the masterplan and the design.

Aberfeldy residents can join the RSG at any time. Contact Fintan, from Poplar HARCA, on **07852 998 909**. You can also contact your Independent Tenant & Leaseholder Advisor, Mo Ali, on **07940 431 503** or mo.ali@talktalk.net for advice and guidance.

Open spaces

The RSG met in January to tell us what they think about existing open spaces on Aberfeldy, including the parks, subways, play areas and green spaces. Residents gave feedback on designs for potential new open spaces, including Highland Place. Residents shared all sorts of different views about what they like and don't like, although the group agreed the parks were problematic and in need of improvement, and a number of residents said they did not feel safe using the existing subways.

Some useful RSG suggestions for new spaces include a market or pop up stalls and seating for people to work outside. You can read the full detail on what your neighbours think about existing and new open spaces online: 🔗 aberfeldynewmasterplan.commonplace.is

YOUR FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

There were a number of questions you want answers to, or further information on, as we would expect at this early stage.



When is the earliest that the first phase of works could begin?

Our Answer

Subject to planning approval, we expect the first phase of work to start at some point in 2022.

What impact will the masterplan have on parking?

Those who already have parking permits will continue to have a parking space. This may not be in the exact same location as it is

now, but every efforts will be made to make sure parking spaces are as close to as possible to where your new home will be.

YOUR FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How will you make sure to build genuinely affordable housing, especially homes for social rent?

Our Answer

As we start to agree the exact height of buildings, locations and number of homes over the coming months, we will be able to share more information on this.

Remember, at a minimum we will re-provide the same number of social rent homes as are demolished. We share the community's wish to go well beyond that.

What size will the proposed new site for Culloden Primary School be? And what facilities will the school offer?

Our Answer

We are developing a masterplan that will allow for the school to relocate in the future or stay where it is. This could deliver significant benefits including brand new facilities, a healthier, happier environment for pupils away from pollution on the main road and a new, strong connection to Millennium Green, giving pupils green space on their doorstep. We are looking at a variety of options

that will allow for the school to remain at the same size or potentially, to increase in size from a 3 form entry school to a 4 form entry school. We want to make clear that no decisions have been made yet. Dedicated consultations will take place with residents, teachers, parents and pupils, as well as the local community, to make sure a decision is made that works for everyone.

YOUR FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What will happen to the traffic if the A12 underpass is pedestrianised?



For drivers, we will create a new vehicle junction to the A12, just to the north of the existing underpass, at the end of Abbott Road. So, there will still be direct access for cars and bus services, however the new junction will be less dominant than the existing vehicle underpass which currently splits the Nairn Street area from the rest of Aberfeldy.

Our idea is to repurpose and refurbish the existing vehicle underpass to be accessible only to walkers and cyclists.

This would create a generous, safe and welcoming route from Aberfeldy to the west across the A12. This also will help release new public space to create Highland Place and remove the north-south disconnection between Aberfeldy West and Nairn Street, new homes, and new public space. Not only do we think the new environment will be much safer and more pleasant for walkers and cyclists, it would improve east-west and north-south connectivity.

GIVING YOUNG PEOPLE A VOICE



Pupils from Langdon Park Secondary School and Culloden Primary School have been telling us what they feel about Aberfeldy, as it is now and what they want for the neighbourhood in future.

The first conversations with young people, held at the end of last year, included walking tours on Aberfeldy.

“I want to live in a place where I’m free and safe to do what I like.”

“A lot of my cousins live here and my family grew up here. It’s an area I know like the back of my hand.”

Some of the feedback young people have shared so far includes:

- ❁ A wish to cycle to school because of the freedom it gives and to get the benefits of exercise
- ❁ Spaces where young people can play and get to easily
- ❁ A dislike of using the tunnels (underpasses) in Aberfeldy

ZCD Architects, who have established a youth-led approach to regeneration, are working with the students. More sessions will take place this year.

Find more on what young people are telling us about Aberfeldy online.

➤ aberfeldynewmasterplan.commonplace.is

ABERFELDY STREET



Shop local on Aberfeldy Street

The shopping directory you've received with this newsletter is your handy guide to the range of shops and services Aberfeldy Street has to offer. Check out who is still open for business during lockdown by looking online.



New opportunities coming up!

Would you like to join the businesses on Aberfeldy Street? We have a new space available.

Take a look online for more information.

🔗 meanwhilespace.com/aberfeldystreet

ABERFELDY BOXING CLUB

A message from Aberfeldy Boxing Club, on Aberfeldy Street

"Since opening the doors in July, we have built a membership of 200 plus members. We are proud of this, and proud to say that our numbers keep rising, even though we are in lockdown.

Over the past few months we have been working hard to get our anti-knife crime campaign started. We have had overwhelming support so far, with lots of big names throwing themselves behind the campaign.



Lucas 'Big Daddy' Browne

The likes of heavyweight title challenger Lucas 'Big Daddy' Browne supporting us all the way in Australia. We also have Love Island winner, Jack Fincham, as well as big name boxers like Laura Pain, Ben Hatchett, author of The Law of Attraction, former welterweight title challenger, Wadi Camacho and Bradley Skeete supporting the scheme.

To get involved, you can buy our t-shirts promoting the message "Stop the Stabbing. Stick to Jabbing" at the gym, when lockdown finishes.

It has been an honour and a privilege working alongside everyone involved in the campaign, and we're excited to see what the future holds for Aberfeldy and this new initiative.

The club has lots of new equipment and can now function as a fully-fledged gym & boxing club, so there is something for everyone. Service will resume as soon as lockdown is over."

📷 @aberfeldyboxingclub

COMMUNITY SUPPORT IN THE PANDEMIC



As the pandemic continues to upend our lives, protecting the most vulnerable has become an urgent priority and a greater challenge for everyone. Thank you to everyone who is following Government guidelines and helping to keep the Aberfeldy community safe.

With Poplar HARCA's community centres closed for most of 2020 and now, we've brought our activities online and we're working with local partners and community groups, to help ease some of the difficulties we're all facing.



Community food projects

To tackle food poverty, Poplar HARCA has been working with Tower Hamlets Council and community organisations such as Women's Inclusive Team, Burdett Football Club and Neighbours in Poplar, to provide a foodbank, affordable food store and a community kitchen.

 To find out more about community food provisions and to ask for support, ✉ community.centres@poplarharca.co.uk

Women Inclusive Team ✉ contact@wit.org.uk










Burdett FC Food Store ✉ thefoodstoreburdett@outlook.com

Neighbours in Poplar ✉ enquiries@neighboursinpoplar.com

COMMUNITY SUPPORT IN THE PANDEMIC

A range of support is available right now

If you or someone you know might benefit from any of the community support listed here, email community.centres@poplarharca.co.uk or telephone **020 7005 7608**

-  COVID Isolation Community Support Hub - for residents who need help or advice while staying at home
-  A telephone befriending service – regular, friendly chats with volunteers and Poplar HARCA staff
-  Weekly resident welfare checks
-  Free Wi-Fi, tablets and laptops to families with limited or no internet access
-  Advocacy support
-  Community activities online via HARCA Centres Unlocked
-  Signposting residents to financial advice
-  Issuing Save the Children emergency response funds to families most in need
-  Free meals for young people in the school holidays



 The COVID Isolation Support Hub is open from **Monday to Friday, 9.30am - 4.30pm**

To access free, online community activities:

 [facebook.com/HARCACentresUnlocked](https://www.facebook.com/HARCACentresUnlocked)

For more on our work in the community and Poplar HARCA's services:

 bit.ly/harcacovid19

COMMUNITY SUPPORT IN THE PANDEMIC



Support for young people

Spotlight, Poplar HARCA's creative youth service, is delivering online youth services, outreach work in the community, and holding one to ones and support group sessions for vulnerable young people.

Health Spot: a confidential, friendly online GP service for 11 -25 year olds, providing support for physical and emotional needs.



Find details about Spotlight's new online programme and how to book an appointment wearespotlight.com/programme

To book an appointment with Health Spot, email Spotlight Youth Work Manager Khadija khadija@wearespotlight.com or [07764 422 071](tel:07764422071)

COMMUNITY SUPPORT IN THE PANDEMIC

Safeguarding support

Poplar HARCA's Safeguarding team are here for residents who need support with domestic abuse, mental health, elder abuse, adults with additional needs and hoarding. If you or someone you know is at risk, or requires safeguarding support [020 7510 0500](tel:02075100500) and ask to speak to the Safeguarding team.

Mental health

Many of us struggling with our mental health at the moment. Free telephone support is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The Tower Hamlets Mental Health Crisis phone line a first port of call for anyone in a mental health crisis, including children and young people.

Tower Hamlets Mental Health Crisis Line:

[freephone 0800 073 0003](tel:08000730003)

More support is available locally and nationwide.

poplarharca.c.o.uk and search 'mental health'.

Covid-19 test centre

A new rapid Covid-19 test centre which offers Lateral Flow Tests for people with no symptoms, has opened at 56 Burcham Street, Poplar, E14 OSH. You do not need to book an appointment.

For more information on local test centres:

towerhamlets.gov.uk and search 'Mobile-Testing-Units'.

BRING ON 2021

The Community Wellbeing and Development team

ONLINE WORKSHOPS

4-6 weeks

Starting 25 January 2021

We may be in lockdown but that doesn't mean you can't still connect with your community and learn something new this year. Poplar HARCA is hosting online workshops in art, website design and coding, via Zoom.

- 🌀 **Coding:** Tuesdays 6–7:30pm
- 🌀 **Art:** Fridays 10–11:30am
- 🌀 **Web Design:** Saturdays 10–11:30am
- 🌀 **Drawing:** Wednesdays 6–7:30pm



All courses are free but for some you may need to use your own equipment.

To register or for more information, please email:

✉ community.centres@poplarharca.co.uk

CLEAN SLATE

Living in Tower Hamlets? Wondering what the future holds?
Take our money health-check

What are you waiting for?



People we helped increase their average income by **£594**

In these uncertain times we need to protect ourselves. Clean Slate is funded to help local people to reduce their costs and increase their income. Visit: cleanslateltd.co.uk/london

Call now: **020 3540 7421**

Many of us are worried about our finances at the moment, so Poplar HARCA has teamed up with Clean Slate to offer residents practical financial advice.

Clean Slate is an independent not for profit Community Interest Company, that also supports people with pre-employment training and getting online that fits around every individuals' needs.



If you want to take part in a Clean Slate workshop or get advice, please get in touch :

✉ community.centres@poplarharca.co.uk.

You can also contact Clean Slate directly, to ask for a financial health check.

☎ **020 3540 7421**



A message from Poplar Works

“We are really looking forward to opening the doors and welcoming you back to Poplar Works, as soon as it’s safe to do so in 2021.

Thank you for supporting Poplar Works in 2020, whether you’ve attended a tour, joined one of the community training courses or stopped by The Works café for coffee and a waffle.

You can stay up to date with all things Poplar Works.

📧 poplarworks.co.uk

✉ hello@poplarworks.co.uk

📷 [@poplarworks](https://www.instagram.com/poplarworks)

☎ 020 3111 2480

We’re really proud of the role Poplar Works has been able to play in contributing to the local community during such a difficult time, and within our very first year of opening!



Scrubs and masks

When Poplar Works was allowed to reopen in May, with enhanced safety measures in place, volunteers from London College of Fashion came back to Poplar Works to make essential masks and scrubs for local community projects. This project was part of the Emergency Designer Network, co-founded by one of our resident designers, Bethany Williams.

The Emergency Designer Network, made up of 150 volunteers, went on to produce 50,000 surgical gowns and 10,000 scrubs and masks for over 40 hospitals.

HIGHLIGHTS OF 2020



The Works café

In August, The Works café, run by local residents Alaina, Leon and Josh opened. Despite it being a challenging year to launch a new business, The Works has remained open and kept the local community caffeinated and fed on delicious home-cooked food. In October, they provided over 200 free school-holiday meals to local children, firmly establishing themselves as part of the community.

Alaina says: "It's really great being able to offer a service for the community in the area I've lived in for 20 years. It's so nice to see how happy people are with the coffee and food I provide".

The Works is open for takeaways. You can order food from them online @deliveroo and @justeatuk.

📷 @theworkscafeldn

HIGHLIGHTS OF 2020

Making for Change

15 local residents gained qualifications in fashion and textiles last year, as part of the Making for Change programme. Making for Change are planning to start the second cohort in 2021. Keep an eye on the Poplar Works website for updates and how to apply.

🔗 poplarworks.co.uk/programmes/making-for-change-training



Make and Mend

Local resident, Asma Begum started her amazing community workshops in September, teaching people skills to upcycle and repair clothes. You can express interest now in attending future workshops, when we are allowed to reopen, by contacting Asma on Instagram.

📷 @asmabegum_stylist



Rent a Workspace

Poplar Works studio space is full of local creative talent, with 70% of our studios occupied.

Studio space is available to rent at the Poplar Works main site on Abbott Road and at the Makery on Teviot Street:

🔗 poplarworks.co.uk

☎ 020 3111 2480.

