

ABERFELDY NEWS

POPULAR **HARCA**

ECOWORLD
LONDON

ISSUE 4

LATEST IDEA FOR ABERFELDY STREET

We have been consulting with you over the last six months, and we have started to pull together your ideas for Phase A of the regeneration. We have included two pictures of the proposals here and can't wait to talk to you over the summer to hear your views.



REGENERATION UPDATE



Phase A will bring improvements, new homes and new shops to Aberfeldy Street and include a new community square at the heart of Aberfeldy. The mix of new homes and shops respond to what you have told us is important and bring a renewed sense of vibrancy to the area.

**To find out more please come on down to Unit 43 Aberfeldy Street
Thursdays 2pm – 4pm**



Aberfeldy residents can join the RSG at any time.

Contact Fintan, from Poplar HARCA, on ☎ **07852 998 909**.

You can also contact Independent Tenant & Leaseholder Advisor, Mo Ali, on ☎ **07940 431 503** or ✉ **mo.ali@talktalk.net** for advice and guidance.

Let's pay homage to the 50th Anniversary of Bangladesh's Independence

You can find a fantastic array of free events taking place throughout the year to mark this significant anniversary on Tower Hamlets Council's website.

Visit  towerhamlets.gov.uk search Bangladesh @ 50.



A message from Aberfeldy Street Mosque General Secretary Mashuk

Ahmed: "Ramadan Mubarak Brothers & Sisters, I humbly request to all attending the mosque to maintain social distancing guidelines. Please wear a mask and bring own prayer mat, along with a bag for your shoes."

Access to the mosque will be 15 minutes before every Jammāt of prayer times.

A message from St Nick's Church

We're pleased that it's possible to hold services in St Nicholas Church again, after a period of having the building shut. We are a church for everyone, so you are very welcome to join us on **Sundays at 11am** (with groups for children and young people aged 4 and over) and on **Thursdays at 12noon**. There are all the appropriate measures in place to keep us all safe.

If you can't be there physically then you can join us for services on Facebook  [@stnickschurch](https://www.facebook.com/stnickschurch). You don't need to be a member of Facebook to watch.

If you are isolated or housebound please let Revd Matt Wall know so that we can offer pastoral care and prayer. We continue to work with Neighbours in Poplar, food banks and local health care providers to help those who are isolated and vulnerable.

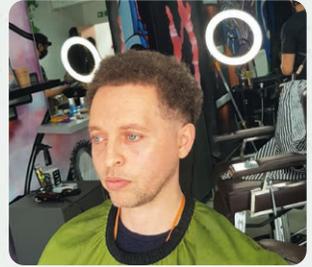


Please feel free to contact Matt by phone:  **07764 823 266** or email:  rev.matt.wall@gmail.com if you would like to talk, need assistance or would like someone to pray for you or with you.

COMMUNITY

Local shops, services and events can now resume (Hooray)

Most of you will know of me or have seen me around the area, those of you who don't, I'm Daniel (Community Empowerment Coordinator for Poplar HARCA). Join me on my journey out of Lockdown. I will be taking part in events and using local services in the area, so first thing's first, 'Get rid of my Lockdown hair'.



Roots, on Aberfeldy high street is back open (finally)!

This was my first time having my haircut there and I am very happy that I did. I am very fussy when it comes to getting my haircut, pretty much sticking with the same barber for 10 years.

Although you can't see it, I was actually worried about sitting in the chair with a new barber, but Joseph was absolutely brilliant! He was so relaxed, understood exactly what I wanted and his abilities & skills far surpassing his experience, you'd think he's been cutting hair for 20 years!

Not only was I happy with the fantastic job Joseph did, the atmosphere throughout the shop was amazing. So many vibes, laughs and deep discussions going on between staff and customers. You can also play pool and genuinely relax while you wait.

This is definitely my new barbershop from here on!!!



Roots, on Aberfeldy high street:

Monday to Wednesday: 9AM – 7PM

Thursday to Saturday: 9AM – 8PM

Sunday: 10AM – 6PM

COMMUNITY

Boxing Club – Daniel out of lockdown fitness

Now my journey continues with getting back to my peak fitness. I'm a bit of a fitness fanatic and this lockdown has been driving me insane (home workouts are not for me).

Join me at the boxing club, where not only can I learn new skills and get pushed to peak levels of fitness with the trainers, I can also train in the newly kitted out gym. Let's see how I got on with my first session.



Review of session

Thoroughly enjoyed my first session (much needed)! The coaches are really friendly and motivating, along with their two new recruits Josh & Daniel, who are always available to offer help & advice. What is also great about this boxing club is the gym and the equipment available. Fully functioning squat rack, lots of dumbbells, Bench and so on. I will definitely be using these facilities during my lunch break, so come on down and join in.

It's £3 a session and you may even bump in to the odd celebrity in there.



Aberfeldy Boxing Club:

Club open from 10AM – 9PM

Kids Classes:

Mondays & Wednesdays: 5–10 years 4PM / 11–18 years 5PM

NEWS FROM POPLAR WORKS

Poplar Works and the Makery update – Spring 2021



Poplar Works first birthday

In February it was time to celebrate in E14 as Poplar Works turned one year old. Due to restrictions, we weren't able to throw a huge party, but we did do the next best thing: a series of online events that brought together business owners, fashionistas and residents.

Highlights included launching our business directory, which showcased all the businesses calling Poplar Works home; Instagram takes over;

workshops; talks; and a special offer on food and drink at the Works café.

Attendees heard from Poplar Works business owners who shared their ups and downs from the past year, reflecting on the difficulties in adapting to moving online. Despite these obstacles, they talked positively about the strong sense of community at Poplar Works and the importance of supporting each other.

NEWS FROM POPLAR WORKS

What has this first year at Poplar Works been like for our businesses?



“Poplar Works has provided a welcoming space with a good sense of community where we support each other. It has motivated me to empower the wider community and create opportunities for them through my work.”

Juliet Herrera, Founder of The Reclaimery, a local fashion business based at Poplar Works.

“We’re residents from the local area and we’ve set up three businesses since joining Poplar Works. They’ve been a great partner, enabling us to collaborate with other members in Poplar Works and in the neighbourhood, as well as being really affordable..”

Raju and Saadi Rahman of Wear By Local, a local fashion business based at Poplar Works.



It was also an opportunity to look to the future, starting with our plans for 2021: we hope to launch the second cohort of Making for Change, resume Asma Begum’s ‘Make and Mend’ sessions and host some family open days in the summer. Watch this space and keep an eye on our website: [📍 poplarworks.co.uk/events/](https://poplarworks.co.uk/events/) and follow us on Instagram: [@poplarworks](https://www.instagram.com/poplarworks) for more details.

CHRISP STREET UPDATE

A message from Simon Carroll, Telford Homes.

As we get close to the start of work on the Chrisp Street regeneration, our priority is to make sure the works run smoothly and cause as little disruption as possible to residents and the daily running of Chrisp Street Market.

This summer we expect to:

- ❁ Start preparing the traders' underground car park in Saracen Street and Hind Grove. This work is expected to take 4 – 6 months. After this, parking in the service roads will be suspended allowing the service roads around Chrisp Street to close in preparation for demolition and construction.
- ❁ Begin work on the empty shops in Cygnet House, on the east side of Chrisp Street. These shops, will be fitted out ready to move some of the retailers from Chrisp Street Market, in.
- ❁ Preparing and upgrading some of the utility services to make sure the services have the capacity to cope with the new homes and shops built within the first phase.

In late autumn 2021, we expect to:

- ❁ Demolish the garages on Kerbey Street along with Aurora and Clarissa Houses and the former Poplar Boys & Girls Club on Cordelia Street.

In early 2022, we expect to:

- ❁ Start construction of the new homes and shops which should be ready for people to move into in about 3 years. The first new homes will be 3 and 4 bedroom duplex apartments for social rent on Kerbey Street.



CHRISP STREET UPDATE



Market Square - Looking South to Poplar Baths

Children's Centre

The new Children's Centre on Kerbey Street is now complete with just a few minor repairs to be done before it is ready for the existing services to move from Market Way. We wish them well.

Tower Hamlets Council

We have been working closely with Tower Hamlets Council for the last few years and continue to do so. The Council have agreed the Compulsory Purchase Order to make sure the regeneration of Chrisp Street goes ahead as planned. Residents and anyone else affected have been contacted directly by the Council to explain what this means for them.

📧 chrispstreet.org.uk

✉ simon.carroll@telfordhomes.london



RESIDENTS' STEERING GROUP WORKSHOP SUMMARY

Over the past 6 months, one thing that has come through loud and clear from conversations with more than 100 residents, is that you are raring to see the positive change promised by the new masterplan. We are too, and the whole team is working hard to submit a planning application this summer.

You've told us your priorities:

Housing

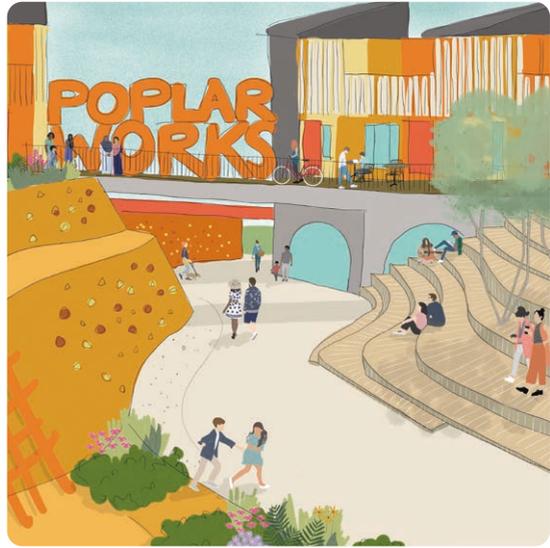
- ✿ A clear majority of residents want the kitchen to be a separate room.

Open spaces

- ✿ Improved open spaces and crossings on the A12, with improvements to community safety in important community locations such as Braithwaite Park, the Dee Street subway and Millennium Green.

Streets and environment

- ✿ A better and safer experience for people travelling by foot and a variety of affordable and convenient shops and cafes on Aberfeldy Street.



Community

- ✿ Keeping hold of links to the past and sustaining the existing community feeling of Aberfeldy - something we've taken on board when thinking about new shops and naming streets.
- ✿ Pop up community events and spaces as we enter into the summer and re-emerge from lockdown. Delivering safe and celebratory community events is top of our wish list!
- ✿ Continuing meanwhile or experimental businesses in future.

RESIDENTS' STEERING GROUP WORKSHOP SUMMARY

"Aberfeldy has the potential to be such a beautiful place, already Aberfeldy Village has really bought that corner alive and we love walking around that area. But Jura House really does need some attention.

Overcrowding really hit me during lockdown, with teenage boys, the constant arguing and bickering, the messy house because there is no space and the difficulties we faced due to having one toilet.

I have been clinging on to the hope this regeneration will happen soon and we will finally get a home my children can enjoy, flourish and be proud of."

Shahina, Jura House resident

Consultation next steps...

Over the coming months we will continue the conversation with residents on the Aberfeldy New Masterplan. We have recently set up a regeneration hub at 43 Aberfeldy Street to keep you updated and collect your feedback. Over May & June we will be knocking on doors across Aberfeldy to make sure you have the latest information and to answer any questions you have. We will continue to hold regular meetings with the Residents' Steering Group and over the summer we will be holding a range of events and activities to make sure everyone has a say, and all residents are able to contribute to shaping the future plans for Aberfeldy, before a planning application is submitted.



For more information, contact Fintan, Poplar HARCA.

Telephone ☎ **0785 299 8909**

or email ✉ **fintan.tynan@poplarharca.co.uk**



INDEPENDENT RESIDENT ADVISOR

Mo Ali – Independent Resident Advisor – Spotlight

Mo Ali was appointed as the Independent Tenant and Leaseholder Advisor (ITLA) by the Residents' Steering Group (RSG) last March. Mo has over 27 years' experience of working in housing has worked as an ITLA on a number of regeneration projects in London.

A year on, we spoke to Mo to find out what he thinks...



Mo, welcome to Aberfeldy, what are your overall impressions of Aberfeldy?

I have a long standing connection with Aberfeldy as my wife and my in laws lived on Blair Street for many years. For me, what makes Aberfeldy so special are the people that live here and the strong sense of community, which is reflected in the RSG.

What have you brought to Aberfeldy?

My role is to provide independent and impartial advice to all tenants and leaseholders on Aberfeldy and to ensure residents' get access to the information they need in order to make informed decisions about the future of their homes.



INDEPENDENT RESIDENT ADVISOR

How have you found the RSG so far?

I believe Aberfeldy is in incredibly safe hands. The RSG are an intelligent and inclusive group of residents, with tremendous local knowledge, from varying backgrounds representative of Aberfeldy, and with one common goal; to make the area a better place to live.

What will be happening over the next few weeks?

It is a really important period coming up with Poplar HARCA starting conversations with all residents on the initial plans for the Aberfeldy New Masterplan, which the RSG have been working so hard on. Fintan's team will be knocking on doors, and holding regular resident drop ins and events. I want to encourage residents to take part in these conversations. Your views really matter.

Finally do you have any advice to residents on Aberfeldy?

My advice is to stay safe, stay united and get involved in the future of your home. You can help make Aberfeldy an Aberfeldy for all and a place residents can be proud of.



You will get a chance to meet Mo over the coming weeks, as the Aberfeldy New Master Plan engagement takes place.

In the meantime, if you have any questions, please contact Mo on ☎ **07940 431 503** or email ✉ **mo.ali@talktalk.net**

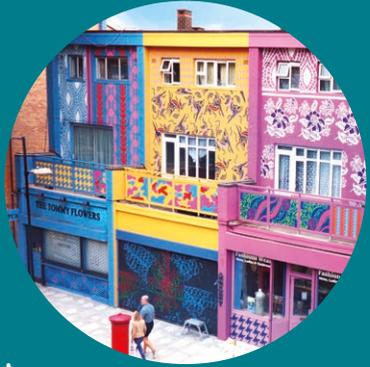


GENERAL UPDATES

BE IN THE LOOP...

...for the latest Aberfeldy regeneration news, updates and events - join the Aberfeldy regen WhatsApp group.

To join simply text 'join' to 07852 998 909



For more information email Fintan at:
Fintan.tynan@poplarharca.co.uk



ABERFELDY FRONT ROOM



The Aberfeldy Big Local team are now working from and run Aberfeldy Front Room, their new base at 39 Aberfeldy Street.

Aberfeldy Big Local (ABL) is an independent community-led project set up in 2013 with funding from the National Lottery Big Local programme. There are 150 Big Locals around the country with lottery investment of £1 million over 10 years managed by a partnership board of local residents.

The Big Local Plan 2020 – 2022 focuses on People, Places and Power. Current projects involve work with Tower Hamlets Council parks team in redesigning and improving the 3 green

spaces, supporting local people to apply for Community Chest grants of up to £1,000 for ideas that bring people together and running an online workshop looking at the effects of air pollution on health and how to campaign for the right to cleaner air.

To find out more visit the website:

➤ www.aberfeldybiglocal.com

To get involved with projects or the partnership board, talk to the staff team at 39 Aberfeldy Street or email:

✉ hello@aberfeldybiglocal.com

The workshop on air pollution will be on Wednesday May 19th 4-7pm on Zoom. Please email, visit 39 or call ☎ **07436 568 483** for more information and the Zoom link.



GIVING YOUNG PEOPLE A VOICE

Young Aberfeldy heroes making a difference

Poplar HARCA's Spotlight team are continuing to work with young Aberfeldy residents to engage in the local regeneration plans thanks to a partnership with Langdon Park School. As well as telling ZCD Architects what they think young people need, especially within public areas, 14 young people have met with Champion design agency and Poplar HARCA's Community Development & Wellbeing team to influence the plans for the new community centre.

Having fully engaged in making a difference to the local area, young people will carry on coming together as the 'Aberfeldy Heroes' to represent young people and be active in their community. The group are now planning to pitch to the Aberfeldy Big Local's Community Chest grant to run a community initiative after lockdown.



If you would like to find out more about this group, please contact Thom Palser, Spotlight Service Manager, via ✉ thom@wearespotlight.com



GIVING YOUNG PEOPLE A VOICE



Langdon Park students back Aberfeldy Street

As non-essential shops reopened on 12th April, a collaborative community art project was unveiled along various shop windows on Aberfeldy Street. Designed by year 9 students at Langdon Park School, with help from local artist Matt Ponting, aka Doodling Around, the window art represents a message of support from young

people to their local high street. Shop safe, shop local and come and admire the art for yourself!

➤ poplarharca.co.uk and search Aberfeldy Street

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

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



NEW COMMUNITY CENTRE



The new community centre will be at the heart of the regeneration in Aberfeldy and replaces the current Aberfeldy Centre building. It's part of the current phase of works completing late spring 2022. The community centre will be part of the Johanna Court residential building, next to a newly created Aberfeldy Square and opposite a new café and GP Practice.

The community centre will incorporate a carefully designed blend of spaces hosting a wide range

of community and wellness activities. The design includes a beautiful event space, workspace and meeting rooms together with a mini shop front for entrepreneurial people to take a 'pop up' type opportunity to showcase and sell their products

The design of the centre is welcoming and local people will be encouraged to pop in, get a cuppa and find out about what's on offer for them. Next door to the community centre will be a new day-care nursery which will be completed at the same time.

NEW COMMUNITY CENTRE



COMMUNITY CENTRE UPDATES

Welcome back to your community centre

Community centre doors re-opened on Monday 12 April for accredited training courses including digital inclusion and English as a second language.

Many other activities are continuing online, from creative drawing workshops with local artist Alexandra Tidswell to virtual line dancing.

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

For more activities, check out the community centre's online programmes.

 [poplarharca.co.uk](https://www.poplarharca.co.uk)
search community-centres



Takeaway breakfast & lunch

Take a break in style by treating yourself to a delicious lunch or a healthy breakfast. Bow Brew and Spotlight Cafe are open for takeaway service and serving up great food at great prices! Bow Brew has a new specials menu offering more vegetation options and from 17 May both cafes will be open for indoor dining.

 [@bowbrewcafe](https://www.facebook.com/bowbrewcafe)

 [@weare.spotlightcafe](https://www.facebook.com/weare.spotlightcafe)

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

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

STREET NAMES CONSULTATION

Calling on historians, creatives and all of the community: Aberfeldy's streets and squares to be named by you!

Did you know that the Aberfeldy Estate was named after Aberfeldy, a small town in Perth and Kinross, Scotland? The town is famed for being the focus of the great poet Robert Burns' Birks Of Aberfeldy.

And now we're giving you the chance to delve further into the history of the Aberfeldy Estate. So to all of you historians, creatives, long-standing members of the community or anyone who wants to be a part of our history, this is your chance.

Our Masterplan has always been for the community, by the community and we want you to be a part of the process in naming three key new locations. To date we've just used some descriptive labels for these to help everyone familiarise themselves on the new masterplan. However long term we want to work with residents to name these new streets and spaces.

Community Lane: This is our pedestrianised north-south connection running from the Nairn Street Estate to Blair Street, lined by family homes and front-doors. We need to come up with a new name that truly means something to the community and is rooted in the history of the place.

Enterprise Yard: Our extension of Poplar Works includes new industrial activities and workspace to help build a creative north-south route. Enterprise Yard needs a real street name however, so get thinking about what local businesses represent to you, the innovators you admire, or references to the industrial legacy of the east end.

Town Square: The flexible market square, opposite the church, should be about the people and the community of Aberfeldy. We're open to all ideas and hope that you can put your creative minds to work to mark the new square.



Street names need to be unique and pass an approval process through the Council, but we want to work with the community, any local history buffs and the Residents' Steering Group to come up with some suggestions. If you have any ideas or what to get involved get in touch with us at:

✉ hello@aberfeldynewmasterplan.co.uk or come to the drop-in sessions.

POPLAR HARCA HEALTH NEWS

Local community Covid-19 tests

Poplar HARCA's community centre staff are working with Public Health England to make sure Covid-19 testing is easily accessible to everyone in Poplar.

From 26 April, the Aberfeldy and St Paul's Way community centres will be collection points for Covid-19 lateral flow home tests. Anyone who is 18 or over can drop-into either of the centres and collect up to 2 boxes (or 4 boxes for larger families).

Anyone can get a rapid Covid-19 test at 56 Burcham Street or other local sites shown here.

Symptom free Covid-19 testing in Tower Hamlets

Anyone can get a rapid Covid-19 tests at these sites. All an appointment or walk in service www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/rapidtesting

- 1** 56 Burcham Street, Poplar, E14 0SH. Open 10am to 7pm daily
- 2** Canary Wharf - level -2, Jubilee Place, Canary Wharf, E14 5NY. Open 11:00am to 8pm on Thursdays, and 7.30am to 4.30pm on all other days.
- 3** Toynbee Hall, 28 Commercial St, London E1 6LS. Open 11am to 8pm daily.
- 4** Trashed Community Centre, Digby Street, Bethnal Green, E2 0LP. Open 10am to 7pm daily.



Covid 19 safety rules & guidelines

With the welcome news that some lockdown restrictions have eased, you can stay up to date with current rules and guidelines on the Government's website gov.uk/coronavirus.

POPLAR HARCA HEALTH NEWS

Ramadan and the Covid-19 Vaccine

Tower Hamlets Council has put together information addressing any concerns about having the vaccine during Ramadan.

Visit towerhamlets.gov.uk search Covid 19 Ramadan

Vaccine rollout in Tower Hamlets

Useful information about the rollout of the vaccine in the borough can be found online.

towerhamlets.gov.uk search Covid 19 vaccine.

Help save local lives

Residents who have had their Covid-19 vaccine are being asked to help save more lives by sharing their story on social media to encourage vaccine take up. Tower Hamlets Council are asking you to take a photo and share on social media as part of their #Ihadmyjab campaign.

towerhamlets.gov.uk search #Ihadmyjab



YOUR FUTURE ABERFELDY

Come and talk to us about the regeneration of Aberfeldy

Aberfeldy drop-ins at Your Future Aberfeldy Hub & Poplar Works

Poplar Works
384 Abbott Road
E14 0UX

Mondays 2.00-4.00pm

Your Future Aberfeldy Hub
43 Aberfeldy Street
E14 0NU

Thursdays 2.00-6.00pm

Find out more at:

www.poplarharca.co.uk/Aberfeldy

Contact **Julie Browne:**

Call: **07956 665103**

Email: julie.browne@poplarharca.co.uk

