

## CDS

### Conwy Court Celebrations

Conwy Court was completed in July 2003 as part of the ongoing regeneration of the Castlefields estate. Time has flown by and amazingly residents have recently celebrated their first anniversary of moving into their new homes. CDS Housing managed the development of Conwy Court, which includes spacious ground floor flats designed for wheelchair users. The three-storey building sits in its own attractive grounds with courtyard parking. The development benefits from spectacular views of the Mersey Estuary from the upper floors. In addition families from the demolished Nigel Walk deck-access flats have been re-housed by CDS in six new houses that complete the scheme.

### Further developments

The old Nigel Walk site adjacent to Conwy Court, is now being developed for new homes. CDS is building 24 new flats and houses which are due for completion in March 2005. The canalside development is also well under way and due for completion in September 2005. This is a mixed tenure development, including a shared ownership scheme and properties for rent. Anyone interested in applying for the shared ownership scheme should contact Julie on 0151 708 4619 or 0151 708 4662.

### Coming shortly - Phase Three

28 houses and flats for rent on Rolands Walk are due to be completed by March 2006. 55 houses and flats on Fitzwilliam Walk and De Lacy Row for shared ownership and rent due for completion by March 2007.

## If you're serious about getting a job, then speak to us!

Halton People into Jobs (HPIJ) is a local project aimed at linking unemployed Halton residents with Halton employers who have vacancies. One of the key features within HPIJ is the Halton Employment Charter, a local agreement where Halton employers and local people work closer to improve employment opportunities. The project provides a unique employment support programme that not only helps people through the recruitment process but also works directly with individuals to match them up to jobs with Halton Charter employers.

To date over 150 Castlefields residents have been involved with the project with warehousing, administration and care work being the overall most popular choices for employment. 40% of the Castlefields residents that we have worked with have been women, with care and administration being their most popular choices, while jobs related to transport and warehousing are most popular amongst the men. Last month another 23 Halton companies joined the list of employers who work with the HPIJ project to promote local vacancies to local people, taking the total to 757 Charter employers. This number is growing on a weekly basis.

### Get involved!

If you are currently unemployed and want to gain employment in Halton call the HPIJ team NOW to see how they can help you. We work with employers in a variety of sectors including - admin., care, transport, engineering, warehousing, retail and hospitality and catering - and have a range of vacancies currently available.

Call Emma Marsh or Lynsey Thomas on 01928 759090 or pop into our office on 3rd Floor Rutland House, Halton Lea, Runcorn - opposite Halton Lea Library.

# Housing Update

### Proposals for Phase Four

An open consultation meeting about the proposed redevelopment of the Butts took place in the Castlefields Community Centre on 21 July, 2004 with residents from the Butts. Residents will move into new houses and flats before the Butts is demolished and replaced by 24 shared ownership properties, with an expected completion date of July 2007.

For further information about what CDS is doing in Castlefields, please contact Cosmas Osuji on 0151 708 4690.

### LHT

Excellent progress is being made on LHT's third phase development on the former sites of the Ferry View Walk flats. 61 houses and flats are under construction and most will be ready for occupation later this year with the first handovers due in the Autumn. Meanwhile LHT is preparing to take down the Rolands Walk flats which should all be vacated by the end of January 2005.

### Further developments

LHT has secured Housing Corporation funding for a development of 8 Shared Ownership for the Elderly (SOFTE) bungalows to be built on the site of Princes Close.

For further information contact Angela Edwards on 0151 708 2415

## Good News for Homeowners in Castlefields

A brand new initiative is to be launched in the next few months to enable Castlefields home-owners to fund improvements to their homes! Liverpool Housing Trust, CDS and Halton Borough Council are currently working together to develop a Castlefields Home Improvement Loan scheme to allow homeowners in Castlefields to borrow money by using part of the value of their home.

The scheme aims to help homeowners in receipt of benefits and who can't afford to finance home-improvements through the usual methods of banks and building societies. It is proposed that there will be no monthly repayments, and that the loan would not be repaid until the property changes ownership - so this exciting opportunity will allow you to have a variety of works carried out to improve your home to meet new Government standards.

If you would like to find out more then please come along to LHT's stand at the Awareness Day in the Community Centre on Thursday 19 August or alternatively contact LHT Housing Project Manager Lin Powell on 0151 708 2309.

### For further information contact the Castlefields Regeneration Team :

Chris Leyshon - Sarah Lucas - Garry Taylor

on

Telephone 0151 907 8381

Fax 0151 471 7418

E-mail [info@castlefields.info](mailto:info@castlefields.info)

Web site [www.castlefields.info](http://www.castlefields.info)



# Castlefields Regeneration Newsletter

Summer 2004



## Castlefields Regeneration Awareness Day

Welcome to the first edition of the Castlefields Regeneration Newsletter! The aim of the newsletter is to provide the community with an update on the latest developments on the Castlefields Regeneration programme.

You are invited to the first in a series of **Castlefields Regeneration Awareness events on 19th August 2004 at Castlefields Community Centre from 10am to 12.30pm and 2.30pm to 7.30pm.**

The purpose of the event is to allow the community to view and discuss the proposed plans on the following schemes:

- The new youth activity park
- The new road
- The Supplementary Planning Guidance for Castlefields and Norton Priory Action Area

Representatives will also be available from both LHT and CDS to answer any housing questions and they will be able to provide you with the latest developments on their housing schemes. There is also an opportunity for you to access the Halton People Into Jobs scheme.

We look forward to seeing you on 19 August.

If you require any further information, please contact the Castlefields Regeneration Team on 0151 907 8381.

### What's in this issue

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## Astmoor Goes Green

Halton Borough Council has established a Greening Employment Areas Project to re-invigorate the Astmoor Industrial Estate. This will be done through an holistic programme of measures that will improve the environment and address many of the underlying issues within the businesses, themselves, that contributed to the decline in the first place.

A key function to the success of the project is the establishment of business-led steering groups. This will be a partnership of resident businesses, local business support organisations and Halton Borough Council, working towards addressing the following business issues:

- Security
- Signage
- Fly-tipping
- Waste management and joint purchasing
- Estate maintenance and landscaping improvements
- Inter-trading
- Business support and training provision
- Establishing community links

To find out more about the Greening Employment Areas Project, please contact: Gareth Bennett on 0151 420 9406  
Email: [gareth.bennett@halton.gov.uk](mailto:gareth.bennett@halton.gov.uk)



To assist with movement around Castlefields and to provide links with surrounding neighbourhoods and employment areas, the Masterplan for Castlefields identifies a series of schemes, for which detailed design is currently underway.

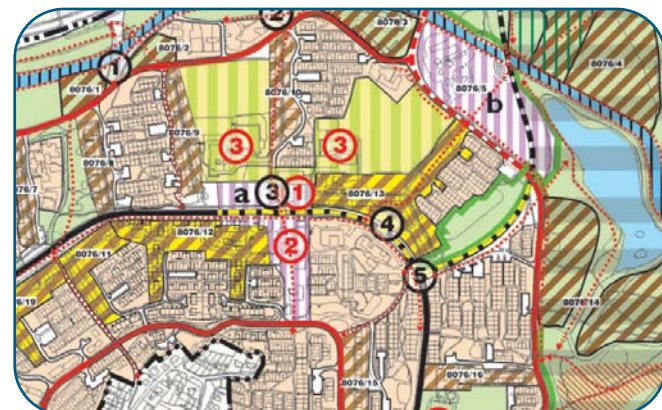
These include:

- A new all purpose link road between the main busway and Castlefields Avenue East, which will provide direct access for all to the proposed new Village Square. The existing busway structure at this section will be removed, including the bridge over Castlefields Avenue East, and a new junction formed.
- A new, shared pedestrian/cycleway alongside the busway between Astmoor Lane and Nigel Walk will link the Village Square to the new road, providing residents in the centre of Castlefields with a link to local facilities and the main Runcom Cycleway network.
- A number of subways have been identified, which will be replaced with pedestrian crossing points, and general improvements will be made to some of the bus stop areas.

For further information contact Jonathan Farmer on 0151 424 2061

## Castlefields & Norton Priory Action Area

The Council has prepared a Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) to guide future development proposals for the Castlefields and Norton Priory Action Area as proposed in the Castlefields Masterplan, which was approved by the regeneration partners in 2003. The SPD is allocated in the Halton Unitary Development Plan Revised (2nd) Deposit under policy RG7 Action Area 7 'Castlefields & Norton Priory'.



The draft Supplementary Planning Document can be inspected at:

- Municipal Building, Kingsway, Widnes;
- Runcom Town Hall, Heath Road, Runcom;
- Widnes Library, Victoria Road, Widnes;
- Halton Lea Library, Runcom;
- Runcom Information Centre, Church Street;
- Halton Direct Link, Rutland House, Halton Lea, Runcom;
- Halton Direct Link, Widnes;
- Halton Borough Council Web Site at [www.halton.gov.uk](http://www.halton.gov.uk)

Comment forms can also be obtained from the above locations. There is also an electronic response facility on the Council's website.

If you require further information or have any questions about the draft SPD or the consultation exercise, please telephone Halton's Forward Planning Division on 0151 424 2061.

## Wild about Town Park?

Town Park is good for nature - it's a haven for birds, plants and many other species - the woodland, grassland and ponds provide a wide variety of wildlife not always found in areas surrounding our towns and cities. It is also very accessible for people to enjoy.

The area affected by the Castlefields development has been surveyed for its wildlife value this summer. Part of the Town Park, already designated as a Site of Importance for Nature Conservation, has been re-surveyed to provide good quality, up to date information. This will give us a better idea of what needs to be enhanced or re-created once the final shape and design of the development areas have been approved.

In May, a habitat survey highlighted some of the main areas of wildlife interest, including grassland with wildflowers such as the northern marsh orchid, important trees for species such as bats, and other, rarer, wildflowers. Most of the proposed area of works will avoid these sites - instead improving habitats of a poor quality with little wildlife interest. Where there are interesting areas that will be affected, this may give us the opportunity to create something new.



Orange Tip butterfly seen on the wing in Town Park during May and June

The habitat survey was followed up with an aquatic survey, centred around Town Park Lake, to see if it's home to the Great Crested Newt, *Triturus cristatus*. The results of this detailed survey work will be through soon.

During August, we will be inspecting an area of trees closest to Castlefields, both for their health and possible use by bats as roosting or maternity areas. This will help the decisions about which trees should remain to form the all important green landscape around the new houses.

Should you have any information about wildlife you enjoy seeing in Town Park, or if you have your own suggestions on providing something new in the Park, please let us know.

For further information contact Paul Oldfield on 01928 583 917

## New youth activity park



The Masterplan for Castlefields identifies the town park area between Castlefields Avenue East and Windmill Hill for development. This area will be

completely revamped with the installation of a youth activity park as a key feature. Design work has already started on making this a reality, it is estimated that completion will be no later than Christmas 2005.

The exact shape of the new park is subject to consultation. However, it is proposed to include a mix of traditional play equipment with adventure and extreme sports activities which will appeal to all age groups.

The proposals include: -

- A new Park building to act as a visitor centre, education centre, meeting place and a base for parks staff who will manage the area.
- Under 5's and under 12's play areas.
- Clearance and reclamation of the Norton Priory school site.
- Skate park.
- New cycleways and paths.
- Boulder park - for low level climbing.
- Upgraded multi use games area.
- Grassed 5 a side pitch for informal use.

Once finished it will become one of the boroughs premier parks, serving not only the communities of Castlefields and Windmill Hill but also the borough as a whole.

For further information contact John Hatton on 0151 424 2061

