

# The story so far...

Thanks to everyone who has given us their ideas so far on how we can change High Path for the better. Here are some of the improvements you have told us that you want to see:

- Safer walkways and better lighting
- New facilities that build on the community spirit that exists on the estate, like skills and employment workshops and community gardening projects
- Private outside space and gardens, as many residents don't have this
- Secure parking
- Improved shared outside space that residents of all ages can enjoy, including children and teenagers
- Improved refuse storage facilities so that they are more secure
- Homes that are cheaper to heat in the winter and easier to keep cool in the summer.

For those of you who couldn't make the first events, it's not too late to get involved. Our next event will be held on Thursday 8 August and it would be great to see you there. It's very important to us that we hear as many views and suggestions as possible, as we think together about the future of High Path.

## Join the conversation

There are a number of ways for you to get involved in the consultation process. We hope to hear from as many of you as possible.

- Have you come along to one of our drop-in events yet? We are inviting all residents to come along to the fourth and fifth drop-in events being held this month.
- If needed we can also arrange a visit to your home to talk to you about what improvements you think we could make. Just let your consultation officers, Sharon or Donna, know by contacting them on **020 3441 8518**.

**We are here to deal with your questions. Call us on 020 3441 8518, or email us on [highpath@circle.org.uk](mailto:highpath@circle.org.uk) to share your views. Or find out more at [www.mertonprioryhomes.org.uk/highpath](http://www.mertonprioryhomes.org.uk/highpath)**



## Contact us

Your views are really important to us and will help us decide what improvements should be made. We look forward to hearing from you and hope to meet you soon. If you would like to arrange for a consultation officer to visit you in your home, please get in touch.

**Sharon and Donna, your consultation officers, can be contacted on:**

**Tel: 020 3441 8518**  
**Email: [highpath@circle.org.uk](mailto:highpath@circle.org.uk)**  
**Website: [www.mertonprioryhomes.org.uk/highpath](http://www.mertonprioryhomes.org.uk/highpath)**

If you need a copy of this newsletter in large print, Braille or any other format or language please call 020 3441 8518



# High Path News

August 2013 issue

## Residents flock to consultation event

Scores of High Path residents have been taking part in Merton Priory Homes' High Path consultation events, to have a say on the future of their estate.



**More than 120 of you came along to our first two drop-in sessions held in mid-July to tell us what you like and dislike about where you live, and to find out why we are looking at the possibility of regenerating the estate.**

Don't forget, there are still lots of opportunities to have a say and tell us what you think about your neighbourhood. Our next event is on Thursday 8 August from 3pm to 7pm and our final event will be on Saturday 17 August from 11am to 4pm.

Each event is different. We will have new exhibition boards on display as the consultation goes on. If you came along to one of the first events, please do return and talk to us in more detail about how you think High Path could be changed for the better. Why not bring along your neighbours and friends from the estate with you?

We are just at the beginning of this conversation. Residents are at the heart of any decision we will make about the future of High Path. If you are unable to attend our events, there are many other ways for you to get involved in the discussion.

We were delighted to see so many of you turn up at the marquee on the corner of Pincott Road and Nelson Grove Road. Thanks to all of you who looked through our exhibition boards, wrote up your ideas for improvements on post-it notes, filled in questionnaires, and spoke with our consultation team. What you've told us so far has given us lots of ideas about how we could have homes that better fit your needs, make outside spaces more inviting, make the estate safer, and improve community facilities.

We hope to see more and more new faces as our consultation continues.



**If you can't make it to our events, our consultation officers will be happy to meet with you in your home, or you can take a look on our website, [www.mertonprioryhomes.org.uk/highpath](http://www.mertonprioryhomes.org.uk/highpath) to find out more.**

## Question time with Sharon and Donna

Your consultation officers are keen to hear what improvements you would like to see at High Path. Here they tell us about their job and how they are finding the consultation so far.



Donna

Sharon

### Can you tell us a bit more about what you do?

**Sharon:** "Well there are two main parts of our job. The first part is to get as many people involved in the consultation around the future of the High Path estate. So we spend a fair amount of time on the estate, speaking to residents we see, making home visits, and attending events. The second part of our job is listening very carefully to residents and answering any questions or concerns they may have. We want to hear from them about the improvements they would like to see at High Path, and also let them know that we are here to support them."

**Donna:** "When we're not out on the estate, we're back in the office looking at feedback, ensuring that residents are being given the information they need, organising future events, and developing the consultation programme with the wider team."

### Do residents have different views on improvements, or do they tend to tell you about similar things?

**Sharon:** "Everyone has a different view, because everyone has a different set of circumstances. That's why it is so important that we hear from as many people as possible. Having said that, there are some issues that do come up over and over again. A lot of residents have told me they can hear their neighbours through their walls, especially in the tower blocks, which is not great. But then some also say that they find their homes to be quite light and bright."

**Donna:** "We also know that many families like using the play areas, especially when they don't have any private outside space. And we know that a lot of people living on High Path really love the location because it's so close to the tube."

### Are you pleased with how the consultation is going?

**Sharon:** "It's good to be enjoying such a positive response so far. We have been working really hard to get residents involved and also to let local businesses and community groups know what's going on. We have hand delivered letters and newsletters to every home at High Path, and put reminders about our events through every letterbox. We have also offered home visits to people who may struggle to attend the events."

**Donna:** "It's good to see that so many people are interested in finding out more about how we could improve High Path. But we still want to see more people as the events continue." ▶



### What would you say to anyone who has not been to a drop-in event yet or arranged a home visit?

**Sharon:** "Come along. The events are interactive, a chance for you to think about how High Path could be changed for the better. We are a friendly team and welcome everyone. Most people who have come along have told us that they have enjoyed the event."

**Donna:** "The events and our home visits do more than get residents thinking about their own four walls. We obviously encourage residents to talk to us about their homes, but we are also keen for them to consider topics like outside spaces, how they move around the estate, and what local facilities they use and need. It's really interesting."

### Is there anything you would like to say to people reading this article?

**Sharon:** "Any talk of change can be unsettling, especially when you are talking about someone's home and outside space. We want to improve High Path, and regeneration is one of the options we are considering. We are not making a decision on this until the autumn, but I want residents to know that we are here right now to listen to them, to support them, and to talk about what potential regeneration could mean for them."

**Donna:** "Yes, change on any scale can be very worrying for people. I would urge anyone with any questions to get in touch with us with their questions or concerns. Residents often feel reassured once they have spoken to us."

### Finally, has anything surprised you about the consultation so far?

**Sharon:** "The weather. I never thought it would be this hot!"

**Donna:** "I agree with Sharon!"

If you have a question for Sharon or Donna, you can contact them on:

Tel: 020 3441 8518

Email: [highpath@circle.org.uk](mailto:highpath@circle.org.uk)



Image for illustration purposes only

## Make mine an Uptown UK slushy!

The ever-popular youth group, Uptown UK, is playing a valuable role in our consultation over the summer. They are offering free slushy drinks to residents attending our consultation events, which have been great in keeping everyone cool on hot summer afternoons. Please look out for them to get your FREE DRINK!

Uptown UK is based in the High Path community resource centre and is supported by Merton Priory Homes. The group provides lots of activities for young people living on the estate, getting them involved in sports, community projects and running their own enterprises. Uptown UK is keen to speak to young people about their thoughts on improvements at High Path – and to ensure that their voices are heard in the consultation – something Merton Priory Homes fully supports.

For more information on Uptown UK and how to get involved in their projects, please contact Joanne Simms on 07957 112260 or email [simmsjm@aol.com](mailto:simmsjm@aol.com)

JOIN THE CONVERSATION  
Shape the future of High Path

## Time for a cuppa

Our consultation officers will soon be organising coffee mornings for older residents during August to discuss their views on the future of the estate. If you want to sit down and have a chat, meet other residents and let us know your views, please contact our consultation officers, Sharon and Donna who will be happy to give you the details of the next event.



## Frequently asked questions

### What is the consultation about?

We want to talk to you about how we can make long lasting improvements to your home and outside space. We also want to explain why we are considering regeneration and the improvements this could bring. Residents are at the heart of this consultation process and we want to hear your views.

### Are you definitely going to regenerate at High Path?

No decision has been made at this stage. This initial conversation is a chance for us to hear your views on regeneration. We will consider all our residents' responses in the autumn. Following this, we will announce our next steps. If we were to continue looking at the possibility of regeneration with you, then we would consult with you further.

### Why are we considering regeneration?

Over the last three years we've worked hard to carry out repairs on your estate and make improvements when they are needed. We now need to think about the long-term future of your estate. We want to ensure that your living conditions, communal areas, and the surrounding outside space are the best they can be. We also want to make sure that High Path improves alongside neighbouring areas.

### I own my home on High Path. If you were to regenerate, what would this mean for me?

Merton Priory Homes is committed to working with leaseholders and freeholders, as well as our tenants, on the estate. We want to talk to you, answer any questions you

have, and hear your thoughts about the idea of regeneration. The consultation is just about exploring the option of regeneration at this stage. We will consider all residents' responses in the autumn and then announce our next steps. If we were to continue looking at the possibility of regeneration at this point, we would consult with you further. In the meantime, if you have any questions about your home, please contact our consultation team on **020 3441 8518**.

### How are you going to keep us updated?

We will update all residents with our regular newsletter. You can also log on to our website [www.mertonprioryhomes.org.uk/highpath](http://www.mertonprioryhomes.org.uk/highpath) to find out more. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to contact your consultation officers or the Merton Priory Homes team on **020 3441 8518**.

