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12 April 2017

Dear Resident,

### **Sheerwater Regeneration Scheme receives go-ahead**

Last Thursday night Woking Borough Council approved the regeneration of Sheerwater as detailed by the Planning Consent which was granted last July. Implementing these plans will lead to a much better Sheerwater in the future. Inevitably, there will be some disruption during the building period over the next few years for which I would like to apologise in advance.

As this is a very large project it will take many months before work commences on site. We expect construction work to start early in 2018 but we will keep you fully informed as plans are progressed.

At the Council meeting last week we agreed that our tenants within the regeneration area should be given the opportunity to move as early in the project as they want. Therefore we will be putting in place a special lettings policy which will allow tenants, if they wish, to move to other housing within the Borough of Woking. However, we have also always said that those residents who wish to remain in Sheerwater will be given every assistance to do so. This special lettings policy will take a few months to put in place but I intend to seek Council approval in July this year and will write to Secure Council Tenants with details about it as soon as possible.

For home owners within the regeneration area it has also been agreed that we would allow them to sell their property to the Council before it is required in the building program. This was agreed in order to give homeowners the maximum flexibility. We would be very happy if they decide to buy a new home within Sheerwater. I have set officers the task of putting together the necessary legal framework so that we will be able to offer homeowners the chance of selling their home to us from June of this year. Details will be sent to homeowners within the regeneration area as soon as we have them.

Woking Borough Council will set up a dedicated team of officers to manage the regeneration project. This will be a Council-led regeneration, using its arms length companies, Thamesway Developments Limited and Thamesway Housing Limited, to secure the best outcome for the future of Sheerwater.

Your local Councillors are your elected representatives and they should be contacted with any concerns you have which are not being met by the officer team.

Your Councillors are:

Cllr Mohammad Ali

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The Council also agreed that the Sheerwater Oversight Panel would continue to meet and would be chaired by Cllr Kevin Davis. This Oversight Panel will continue to ensure effective communication with residents of Sheerwater and community involvement both within and outside the red line area.

There will also be a cross-party Project Board which will include the Portfolio Holder for Housing Cllr Colin Kemp. The Project Board will meet on a regular basis.

This letter concludes the engagements with all residents in the wider Planning Consultation area and/or those that engaged in the Planning process. My future updates will be directed to the owners and/or occupiers of homes within the red line area.

I realise that the last four years have been an uncertain and worrying time for you. I hope that now with the certainty of the decision we can all move forward and work together for a better outcome in the future.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Bittleston', with a horizontal line underneath.

Cllr David Bittleston

Portfolio Holder for Strategic Housing Development