

IN FOCUS FOREST GATE

October 2011



REBUILDING FOR THE FUTURE

A sparkling new leisure centre will be built on the Romford Road to replace the Atherton Leisure Centre.

The current building has provided a great service to the community for almost 80 years, but now it is no longer fit for purpose.

Essential ceiling repairs meant that main pool has been shut since May. Detailed surveys revealed asbestos in the loft space, which presents a risk to public safety and meant that the council could not make the pool safe without a significant increase in costs. Other facilities in the centre are also in need of significant maintenance works and repair.

A drop-in session was held for residents and users of the Atherton Leisure Centre, where members and officers provided information about



The main pool

a consultation starting next month. People will be invited to contribute their ideas, comments and feedback.

Mayor Sir Robin Wales has given a 'cast iron' guarantee that the leisure centre, due to close by the end of this year, will be rebuilt. He said: "The council had to decide between continually repairing a centre that was increasingly expensive and out of date, or investing in a modern centre for the future.

"We have therefore decided to build a new centre with a pool on this site.

"We will be speaking to residents from mid-November to find out what they want from a new centre and will then start planning for the new facility."

Funding for the project will be included in next year's budget proposals.

Keep reading In Focus for updates on the consultation, closure and opening of the new Atherton Leisure Centre.



In need of repair

CONTACT US

If your group has an activity to promote please contact us on: 020 3373 2684 or email infocus@newham.gov.uk



Games makers wanted

Newham Young Mayor Ali Mohamed is encouraging all the borough's 16 to 18 year-olds to grab the opportunity of a lifetime and volunteer during the Olympic and Paralympic Games.

During her time as Young Mayor, Ali's predecessor Kaycee De Belen was instrumental in lowering the volunteering age for the Games from 18 to 16 years so that more teens had the chance to be involved.

The London Organising Committee for the Olympic Games (LOCOG) are holding a national selection event to choose teams of anything from two to 18 people to help with next year's events. Whether you're a group of friends or a specialist team, like a sport, dance or music group, as long as you have a supporting adult who can guide you, get involved and next summer could be the best of your life.

Applicants have until 31 October to apply. Visit www.london2012.com/young-games-maker for full details.



Residents doing it for themselves

Residents who use Wanstead Flats are being warned not to leave litter after visiting the attraction. Street scene enforcement officers can issue on-the-spot fines of £80 to anyone seen dropping rubbish.

More than 20 people living in Latimer Road and nearby Chestnut Avenue recently carried out their own litter-pick to improve the area along Capel Road.

Angela Haigh, who organised the event, said: "We are proud of our

community and love people using the Flats, but we wish they would respect the area and take their rubbish home with them."

Newham Council will be working with their counterparts at the City of London Corporation, which has responsibility for Wanstead Flats, to ensure the area remains clean.

If you see people dropping litter or fly-tipping, call the council's 24-hour anti-social behaviour service hotline on 0800 731 3300.

Join up to make a difference

If you are one of many people who want to work with local councillors, organise events and community projects, why not become an active community team (ACT) volunteer?

ACT volunteers are based in the council's nine community forum areas and bring our community together. They also work in their neighbourhoods to tackle problems such as littering, dog fouling and fly-tipping.

Anyone can become an ACT volunteer as long as they live or work in one of the forum areas, you

could even belong to a charity or attend a faith group in the area.

Workshops are held throughout the year to ensure projects reflect the area's priorities.

Forest Gate ACT volunteer Janet Williams said: "It's great to find out what's important to local people and ensure that our activities reflect this, so we are not only changing the community around us but people's lives."

For more information contact Syed Haque on 020 3373 1540 or email syed.haque@newham.gov.uk

ENFORCEMENT SPECIAL: 'SUPER SHEDS' CRACKDOWN



These are the shocking scenes that confronted Newham Council enforcement officers during a raid on shanty-style housing.

Officers discovered cockroaches scurrying across a work-top, dangerous electrical wiring, upturned dirty mattresses and a 'super shed' – an illegal outbuilding - in the back yard of a semi-detached house in Forest Gate. Two people were living in the rickety structure - which had no heating - and allegedly paid £300 a month rent, cash-in-hand. The tenants slept on filthy mattresses on the floor and the shed had no toilet facilities and had to use a toilet in the main house.

Newham Council has announced the creation of a special task force to combat these 'super sheds'. It has also started



a ten-week consultation examining the possibility of licensing all private landlords.

The owners of the Forest Gate property have been given three weeks to clean up their act or face an enforcement notice. The council may tear down super sheds and other illegal developments if these notices are not complied with. Owners could face prosecution, a fine of up to £20,000 and be forced to pay the council's costs. In addition, courts have powers to recover cash pocketed by landlords from illicit renting.

Forest Gate community lead councillor Kay Scoresby, said: "There are good landlords in Newham and we want to work with them. Unfortunately there are also some unscrupulous ones who we are targeting vigorously."

Spotlight on... on crime and disorder



Take a close look at these CCTV images, do you recognise anyone? Newham Police want to speak to these people in connection with the disturbances experienced in London this summer.

Since August, Newham Council has been supporting the police's efforts to hold those involved in looting and disorder to account. Since August, the Newham Mag

has hosted images of suspected criminals up to no good. An unprecedented response from residents and business has identified many culprits but these people are still wanted for questioning.

We need your help. If you have any information that could help the police, call 020 8217 5078 or Crimestoppers, in confidence, on 0800 555 1111.

WHAT'S ON FOREST GATE

What Women Want pampering event

Saturday 29 October, 3-7pm
Forest Gate Methodist Church,
Woodgrange Road, E7.
Admission £1

To have a stall at the event call Sly on 07932 915 875 or email sylvestias@yahoo.co.uk

Water confidence for pregnant women

Free swimming session for new and expectant mums who want to improve their confidence in the water. Atherton Leisure Centre, Romford Road, E15
Friday 14, 21 and 28 October, 12noon-12.45pm
For more information call Alex on 07791 661700

For even more things to do check out the What's On in Newham calendar, where you'll find listings for more than 6,000 events visit www.newham.com

If your group has an activity to promote please contact us on: 020 3373 2684 or email: infocus@newham.gov.uk

MEET YOUR LOCAL COUNCILLOR

Councillors out and about: If you would like a councillor to visit your community organisation, school, place of worship, meeting or event please call 020 3373 1540 or email syed.haque@newham.gov.uk
To email your local councillor write firstname.lastname@newham.gov.uk e.g. shama.ahmad@newham.gov.uk



Shama Ahmad



Paul Brickell



Ellie Robinson



Akbar Chaudhary



Leanora Cameron



Winston Vaughan

Forest Gate North Ward
Every Saturday (alternating)
10.30 - 11.30am
Durning Hall
Earlham Grove
Forest Gate, E7

Forest Gate South Ward
Every Saturday (alternating)
except Bank Holiday weekends
10.30 - 11.30am
The Gate, 4 - 20 Woodgrange Road
Forest Gate, E7

Need to talk to Mayor Sir Robin Wales? Being an elected mayor, Sir Robin is directly accountable to you. Look out for Question Time times and dates in the Newham Mag, visit www.newham.gov.uk/mayor or call 020 3373 0437.