

The story so far...

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

- Better lighting around the estate and improved security
- New facilities for the community on the estate, particularly for the elderly and teenagers
- Better maintained communal entrances and stair wells
- Improved rubbish storage and recycling facilities
- Action on anti-social behaviour
- Homes that are better insulated and are cheaper to heat
- Better parking.

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 Wednesday 14 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 Eastfields.

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 been 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, Doreen or Tim, know by contacting them on **020 3441 8518**.

We are here to deal with your questions. Call us on 020 3441 8518, or email eastfields@circle.org.uk to share your views. You can also find out more at www.mertonprioryhomes.org.uk/eastfields.



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.

Tim and Doreen, your consultation officers, can be contacted on:

Tel: 020 3441 8518

Email: eastfields@circle.org.uk

Website: www.mertonprioryhomes.org.uk/eastfields



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

JOIN THE CONVERSATION
Shape the future of Eastfields



Eastfields News

August 2013 issue

Great turn-out at Eastfields consultation events

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

More than 130 of you came along to our first two drop-in sessions at the end of 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 your estate.

We were delighted to see so many of you turn up at the marquee on the big green. Adults looked through our exhibition boards, wrote up ideas for improvements on post-it notes, filled in questionnaires, and spoke with our consultation team. Meanwhile, children enjoyed cookie decorating and book binding. With so many of you attending our events, we already have lots of ideas about how we could improve your homes and outside spaces.



If you can't make it to our events, our consultation officers will be happy to meet with you in your home. You can also take a look on our website at www.mertonprioryhomes.org.uk/eastfields to find out more.

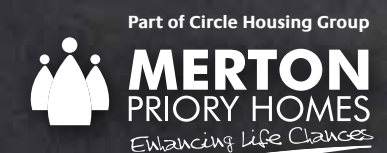


We hope to see more and more new faces as our consultation continues. Don't forget, there are still lots of opportunities to have a say and tell us what you think about your neighbourhood. Our next event is on Wednesday 14 August from 3pm to 7pm and our final event will be on Saturday 31 August from 11am to 4pm.

During our next events, our team of architects and landscape experts will be taking groups of residents on estate walkabouts throughout the day. This is a chance for you to show them what you like and dislike about Eastfields and discuss ideas for improvement with them.

We will also have new exhibition boards on display. These will include images and ideas of how things could be improved. You can even watch our architects sketch new ideas. Children can make kites on 14 August and decorate plant pots and then sow seeds on 31 August.

JOIN THE CONVERSATION
Shape the future of Eastfields



Question time with Tim and Doreen

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



Tim



Doreen

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

Tim: "We spend a fair amount of time at Eastfields encouraging people to get involved in the conversation. This involves posting newsletter and flyers through every letterbox, talking to residents, visiting people in their homes, and going along to events. We listen carefully to what people have to say, and we also answer any questions they may have on the future of their estate."

Doreen: "When we're back at the office, we look at the feedback we've been given, organise events, make sure that residents have the information that they need, and continue to work on the consultation programme, making sure we are getting as many people involved in the conversation as possible."

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

Tim: "Everyone will have their own personal opinion, but there are some common issues that I hear about regularly. Residents have told me they would like better lighting around the estate and better parking. They also tell us they would like homes that are better insulated and that don't have problems with condensation. But then some also say that they find the rooms in their homes quite spacious."

Doreen: "A lot of residents say the roofs are a real problem here – they leak and the design means they are difficult to maintain. We also know that many families like using the green spaces, although they would like to see more communal equipment on the greens."

Are you pleased with how the consultation is going?

Tim: "It's been brilliant to talk to so many residents already and we will be working to ensure even more people attend the next events."

Doreen: "Yes, we are pleased that so many people have turned up so far. Residents have been very open with us about what they like and don't like at Eastfields. This really helps to give us ideas on what could be changed for the better. We have made sure our events are interactive and different, so I hope to see more and more people as the consultation continues."



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

Tim: "The events are really interesting and fun, so please come along. You can meet with architects and landscape experts, look at sketches for improvements and really think about how Eastfields could be changed for the better. We also have fun activities to keep children occupied."

Doreen: "This is a chance for you to talk to us about your home and beyond. As well as discussing the roof over your head, we also encourage you to tell us about your outside spaces, how you move around the estate, and what local facilities you use and need."

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

Tim: "The events are a chance to think about how to make Eastfields the best it can be. Of course any talk of change can unsettle people. We are here to listen to your views, answer your questions and ensure you are supported throughout the consultation."

Doreen: "While we are exploring the idea of regeneration, no decision has been made at this stage. This part of the consultation is really about getting your ideas on how Eastfields can be improved."

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

Tim: "I think residents will be pleasantly surprised by just how interesting this consultation is. It is really interactive and our team of architects are brilliantly creative."

Doreen: "We were looking forward to a good turn out, but were really pleased about how many people from the estate attended our very first event."

If you have a question for Tim or Doreen, you can contact them on:

Tel: 020 3441 8518

Email: eastfields@circle.org.uk

Young people to get vocal with Uptown UK

The ever-popular youth organisation, Uptown UK – part of the new Wimbledon Partnership – is playing a valuable role in our consultation over the summer.

Supported by Merton Priory Homes, the dynamic organisation is looking to speak to young people about their thoughts on improvements at Eastfields – and to ensure that their voices are heard in the consultation. Uptown UK will be at each event, so if you are aged 11 to 19, why not come and talk to them?

Uptown UK provides lots of activities for young people living in and around Eastfields, including youth clubs, dance and drama academies and a positive activities project for young people.

For more information on Uptown UK and how to get involved in their projects, please contact Joan Simms on 07957 112 260 or email simmsjm@aol.com.

Youth club for young people aged from 11 to 19
Thursday 7pm to 9.30pm

Dance academy: dance and drama for girls and boys
Monday 7pm to 9.30pm

Both at Steers Mead Children's Centre, Lavender Park Pavilion, Lavender Avenue, Mitcham, London CR4 3HL.

Uptown UK also provides information and advice for young people and parents/carers.



Uptown UK is 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!

Image for illustration purposes only

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 Eastfields?

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 Eastfields improves alongside neighbouring areas.

I own my home on Eastfields. 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/eastfields 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**.



JOIN THE CONVERSATION
Shape the future of Eastfields