

The story so far...

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

- Safer walkways and better lighting
- Better use of communal facilities like the community centre
- More car parking spaces
- Improved refuse storage facilities
- Cars stopped from driving on the communal gardens
- Improvements to homes to prevent condensation and damp.

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 29 August from 3pm to 7pm 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 Ravensbury.

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 at the end of August and in September.
- 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 officer, Penny, know by contacting her on **020 3441 8518**.

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



Events diary

Make a note of the next drop-in events being held this month. Talk to our consultation team. Tell us what you like and dislike about Ravensbury and have your say on the future of your estate.

Thursday 29 August, from 3pm to 7pm

Saturday 7 September, from 11am to 4pm
Come to the marquee on the green on the corner of Hengelo Gardens.



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 meeting you soon. If you would like to arrange for a consultation officer to visit you in your home, please get in touch.

Penny, your consultation officer, can be contacted on:

Tel: 020 3441 8518

Email: ravensbury@circle.org.uk

Website: www.mertonprioryhomes.org.uk/ravensbury



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

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Ravensbury News

August 2013 issue

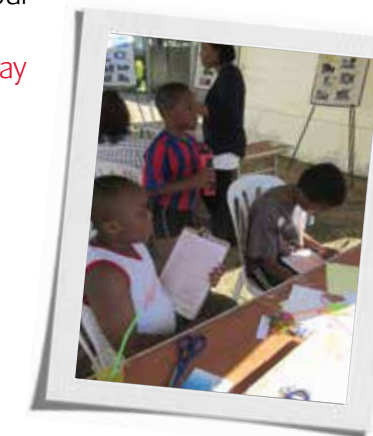
Conversation begins on the future of Ravensbury

Residents across the Ravensbury estate have been taking part in Merton Priory Homes' recent consultation events to have a say on the future of their homes and outside spaces.

More than 100 residents living on the estate came along to our first two drop-in sessions at the marquee on the corner of Hengelo Gardens.

They looked through our exhibition boards, shared their ideas for improvements, and found out more about why we are looking at the possibility of regenerating and refurbishing parts of the estate. Meanwhile, children enjoyed cookie decorating and book binding.

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 estate. Our next event is on **Thursday 29 August from 3pm to 7pm** and our final event will be on **Saturday 7 September from 11am to 4pm**.



At our next events, we will be holding estate tours so that you can show us what you think needs to be improved. Our architects will be there to sketch out ideas, and landscape experts will also be around to talk to you about your outside spaces. Again, we will also be listening to **any new ideas that you have** for making Ravensbury a better place to live. We'll also have new exhibition boards which will give a summary of what you've told us so far.

So come along and tell us in more detail about how you think Ravensbury could be improved. Why not bring along your neighbours and friends from the estate with you? **Children are very welcome too. We will be holding kite-making workshops on 29 August and decorating plant pots on Saturday 7 September.**

Residents are at the heart of any decision we will make about the future of Ravensbury. If you are unable to attend our events, there are many other ways for you to get involved in the discussion.

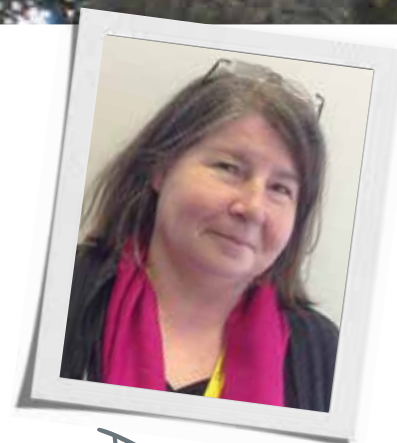
Our consultation officer will be happy to meet with you in your home, or you can speak to one of the team on 020 3441 8518. Alternatively you can take a look on our website, www.mertonprioryhomes.org.uk/ravensbury to find out more.



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Question time

Your consultation officer, Penny, is keen to hear what improvements you would like to see at Ravensbury. Here she tells us about her job and how she is finding the consultation so far.



Penny

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

Penny: "I want to make sure that everyone living on the estate feels that they can have a say on the future of Ravensbury. So I spend a lot of my time out and about talking to residents and listening to their views. I'm also here to make sure people are informed and get their questions answered. So it's really about supporting residents through the consultation process, every step of the way. When I'm not out on Ravensbury, I'm looking at what residents have told us so far, organising events, and working with the wider team."



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

Penny: "We've heard lots of different views already, and we've only had two events! But that's the great thing about the consultation, everyone gets a say. I'm determined to make sure that people on Ravensbury can get their point across and you often find that similar things come up time and again. A lot of residents have told me that they would like the walkways on the estate to be made safer by keeping them well lit. Lots of people like the communal garden areas, but feel that they could be made more attractive. They've also raised problems with cars driving on the communal grass areas. We also know that lots of people love Ravensbury for its easy access to two parks and great public transport links."



Are you pleased with how the consultation is going?

Penny: "It's fantastic to see the level of turn out so far. We've been working really hard to get residents involved and also to let local businesses and community groups know what's going on. I want to make sure we get even more people to our next events. I've been out and about hand delivering letters and newsletters to every home at Ravensbury, and put reminders through everyone's door. I've visited many residents at home to talk with them about what's happening."

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

Penny: "Come down to Hengelo Gardens and say hello! These events are for you to tell us about how Ravensbury could be changed for the better. There's also lots of stuff for children to do, so everyone will have fun. We want to get ideas about your home, but also to talk about green spaces, how residents get around, where they do their shopping and what facilities they need."

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

Penny: "It's very important to say that we are not making a decision on this until the autumn, but obviously part regeneration and part refurbishment is something we want to talk to residents about at this stage. Many residents, I know, are worried about what this could mean for them. I want to reassure them we are here to listen to them, to support them, and to answer any concerns or questions they may have. So please get in touch with us if you need to talk to us."

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

Penny: "Yes – I am pleasantly surprised by the baking skills of our architects! Anyone who took away a cookie from our last event will know what I am talking about!"

If you have a question for Penny, you can contact her 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 Ravensbury – 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 Ravensbury, 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 Ave, Mitcham, London CR4 3HL. Ravensbury residents are welcome!

Uptown UK also provides information and advice for young people and their 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!

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Part of Circle Housing Group
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Enhancing Life Chances

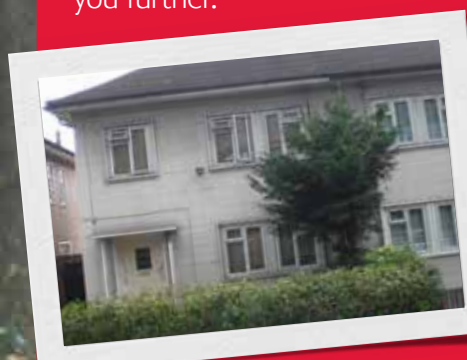
Frequently asked questions

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 refurbishment, together with 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 and refurbish at Ravensbury?

No decision has been made at this stage. This initial conversation is a chance for us to hear your views on regeneration and refurbishment. 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 the estate, especially the Orlit homes which are designated under the 1985 Housing Act as being of defective construction. This consultation is an opportunity for us to hear your ideas on what we can do to make long-lasting improvements to your homes and the outside space at Ravensbury.

I own my home on Ravensbury. If you were to regenerate or refurbish, 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 about your

thoughts about the idea of regeneration or refurbishment. The consultation is just about exploring the option of regeneration and refurbishment 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 or refurbishment 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/ravensbury to find out more. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to contact your consultation officer or the Merton Priory Homes team on **020 3441 8518**.

