



Regeneration partner announced

An experienced residential developer has been chosen to be the council's partner for building hundreds of new homes, and community facilities, in Roehampton.

Redrow Homes was selected at a meeting of the council's Executive committee on 23 January.



A competition was launched in March, 2016, to find a development partner to build around 1,000 new homes; a new library and retail area both twice the size of existing provision; a new community and wellness centre; and a new park, during the next ten years, all subject to planning permission.

All council tenants and owner-occupiers are guaranteed a newly-built home on their estate.

As a condition of appointment, the council requires Redrow Homes to provide local residents with opportunities for jobs, training and apprenticeships. Construction is only one aspect of the openings

expected to be available through the regeneration, which can include security; site office administration; decorating and more, through Work Match, the council's employment brokerage.

The regeneration of the Alton is a key priority for the council as part of its Aspirations programme to improve life chances in the borough, through new housing, employment and training initiatives.

Continued on back page.



Left to right: Cllr Peter Carpenter; Cllr Steffi Sutters, Cabinet Member for Communications; Cllr Jeremy Ambache; Cllr Ravi Govindia, Leader of the council; Cllr Sue McKinney; and Cllr Paul Ellis, Cabinet Member for Housing. Image by Sean Pollock.



Ibrahim Meite (centre, with football), newly signed to Cardiff City FC, visits Roehampton Youth Centre; image by Sean Pollock

Aspirations programme

Roehampton footballer signs with Championship team, inspires local young people

A promising young striker from the Alton estate who signed with Cardiff City returned to Roehampton to encourage the next generation of footballers.

Ibrahim Meite, 20, grew up in Roehampton, and with the support of the council's youth services over the years his interests in football and keeping fit helped steer him out of trouble.

On 15 February he was at Roehampton Youth Centre, on Holybourne Avenue, to watch talented local youngsters take on visitors from Battersea in a five-a-side tournament, along with Cllr Steffi Sutters.

Ibrahim, who presented medals to the winning and runner-up teams, said: "It's always good coming back to Roehampton, to give back to the community where I come from and help show the way to younger ones. I just hope that when they upgrade Roehampton they can add a few football-related things to help distract them from trouble."

A new multi-use games area is proposed to be built alongside new facilities for Roehampton Youth Centre and the Base youth hub on Danebury Avenue. This is part of the council's redevelopment of parts of the Alton estate to build approximately 1,000 new homes, with all council tenants and owner-occupiers guaranteed a newly-built one on their estate; a new library and retail area both twice the size of existing provision; a new community and wellness centre; a new park and play areas; more affordable housing and homes for sale, all during the next ten years and subject to planning permission.

During the event, Cllr Sutters thanked the council youth workers who had helped organise the tournament, as well as those who played a role in supporting Ibrahim into a professional footballing career.

She said: "Through the support of his family, council youth services and his agent, and not least his own determination, Ibrahim is an example to other young people in Roehampton, and Wandsworth, of what's achievable when talent is encouraged and developed through hard work. This is a great example for the



Aspirations programme, of how council youth workers can be part of helping local young people into opportunity.”

Providing targeted employment and training support, new homes, and access to sporting and cultural opportunities are key elements of the council’s Aspirations programme to improve life chances. It began in 2012 with a focus on the Alton estate in Roehampton, and the Winstanley and York Road estates, in Battersea, and has also provided seed funding to local organisations in Roehampton.

It was last summer that Ibrahim joined the AG football academy of sports agent Godfrey Torto, and soon started playing for non-league side Harrow Borough with whom he reached the first round of the FA Cup. Godfrey and Wandsworth Council youth worker Emmanuel Sempa had set Ibrahim a target of scoring 15 goals for Harrow Borough by Christmas, which he duly smashed well ahead of schedule.

This earned the young forward a trial in October with 2015/16 Premiership champions Leicester City, before finally moving to Cardiff City in January this year.



Roehampton took on Battersea; image by Sean Pollock

Ibrahim – nicknamed the Shark for his predatory goal-scoring prowess – has been signed to a contract running until the summer of 2018, and is expected to make an impact starting out as a substitute.

Emmanuel said: “Roehampton Youth Club and The Base youth hub are like pillars in the community - Ibrahim is one of many young people who have come in that we have helped get jobs, into college, to progress to university. If you want to become a professional footballer, you’re going to need a work ethic to get you there. The most important thing is for others to know that there are opportunities out there if you’ve got the talent and the attitude to achieve.”

The tournament was part-funded by national charity StreetGames, through the Doorstep Sports programme.



During the medals presentation; image by Sean Pollock

Get Out Get Active Roehampton!

Local people of all ages are being asked to take part in a new sport and physical activities initiative in Roehampton.

The intention of Get Out Get Active is to establish regular exercise and sport in community venues across the Roehampton area, including the Alton estate.

Activities being arranged include ‘turn up and play’ football, and junior non-contact beginners kick-boxing, both aimed at young people.

An adult running club for beginners is being established, with female fitness sessions and netball also on the cards.

For those aged 55 and over, walking football and bowls games are expected to be arranged.

Get Out Get Active is being funded by a grant from Spirit of 2012, which was secured by the council’s contractor Enable Leisure and Culture. The programme will run for three years with the aim of establishing community-run activity sessions that are financially sustainable beyond when the funding runs out, for which training will be available.

For more information, contact Emma Toft, Sport and Physical Activity Officer, on 07766 361288 or etoft@enablelc.org



Regeneration partner announced Continued from front page.

Cllr Ravi Govindia, Leader of the council, said: "We had some difficult decisions to make, but we are now off the starting blocks with this exciting redevelopment. Estate regeneration has a mixed reputation in London, but with our guarantees of newly-built homes on the estate for council tenants and owner-occupiers, to keep communities together, and opportunities offered by our Aspirations programme, Alton will set a new standard for others to follow."

Cllr Peter Carpenter, who represents Roehampton and Putney Heath ward, said: "As ward councillors all three of us are very supportive of this regeneration, and we think it's very important that it goes forward. We would also want the development partner to be comprehensively engaged with the community in terms of social regeneration. We will, however, continue to hold the council to account, to make sure that residents get the best possible outcome."

The next step is for the council and Redrow Homes to work out a timetable for development and to begin extensive public consultation on detailed designs for the regeneration, before applying for planning permission. To enable those in later stages to move straight into their newly-built homes, the site of Sherwood Lodge, off Bessborough Road, would be redeveloped to rehouse residents in the regeneration's first phase.

Free debt and money advice at Alton

Help with rent arrears, debt, housing benefit or Council Tax and more is available from free sessions at the Western Area Housing Office, Holybourne Avenue.

Come along 10am-4pm on 27 March to find out more from the council's Financial Inclusion team. You can also contact the team during working hours on (020) 8871 8780.

Over 50s choir and line dancing: What's on at Minstead Gardens

Come along to the Minstead Gardens sheltered housing clubroom to take part in some fun activities and make new friends.

Every Monday, 1.30-2.30pm, a choir for those aged over 50 sing songs from the swinging sixties – it costs £1 per session and includes expert tuition, with tea and biscuits. No experience is necessary!

Every Thursday, line dancing classes take place, 10-11am for beginners, and 11am-12noon for those more experienced, with each session costing £2.

For more information, contact **Elaine Curley** or **Simone Farr**, at Wandsworth Council's sheltered housing services community development team, on **07956 248057**.

Your ward councillors

The Alton estate is in Roehampton and Putney Heath ward.

Your Roehampton and Putney Heath ward councillors are:

Cllr **Jeremy Ambache** jambache@wandsworth.gov.uk

Cllr **Peter Carpenter** pcarpenter@wandsworth.gov.uk

Cllr **Sue McKinney** smckinney@wandsworth.gov.uk

You can contact the Cabinet Member for Housing

Cllr **Paul Ellis** by email at pellis@wandsworth.gov.uk

Surgeries take place on the second and fourth Saturday of every month, from 11am to 12noon, at Roehampton Library, 2 Danebury Avenue, SW15 4HD.

Phone: 020 8871 6207 or email: roehampton@wandsworth.gov.uk

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