



ISSUE 2

Spring 2022

Your regular update on
what's happening with
the regeneration of
Druids Heath

REGENERATION: WHAT DOES IT MEAN FOR YOU?





Whole council approach: CX site visit

On the 7 March, the council's senior leadership team who are responsible for the activities of the council staff and advise councillors on the big decisions, came together in Druids Heath to ensure that there was a joined up approach across the council to the regeneration.

They combined their weekly meeting with a visit to Druids Heath where they acknowledged the need for housing-led regeneration that addresses social, economic, community and environmental issues and the need for an extensive, joined-up masterplan.

Top: Deborah Cadman, Chief Executive, Birmingham City Council

Regeneration: what does it mean to you?



After the last newsletter in December, Cabinet approved the Regeneration report for Druids Heath.

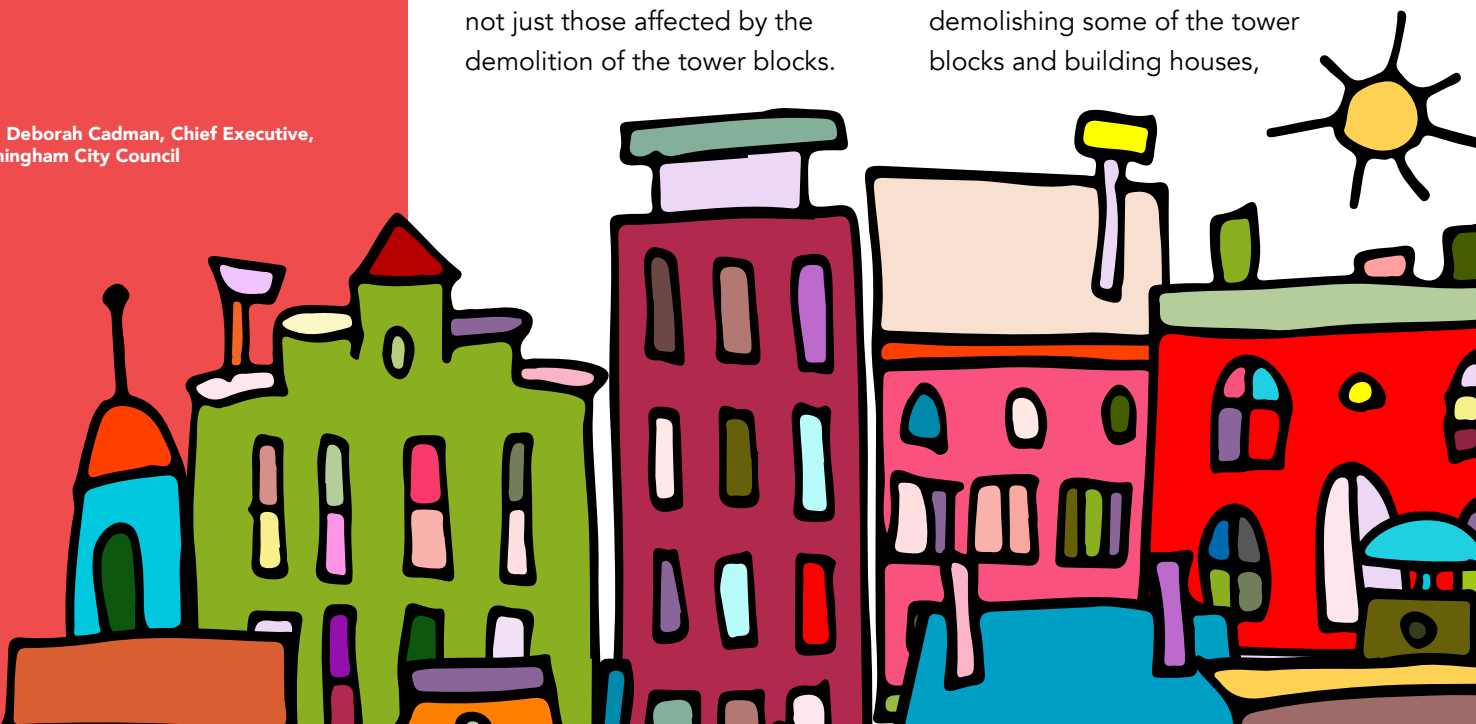
We will be working together – residents and council – to address the challenges and problems faced by the community and build on the opportunities and strengths already here to make a better Druids Heath.

Your regeneration should create a great place to live for all residents, not just those affected by the demolition of the tower blocks.

In order to deliver your estate regeneration we need you to work with us. By getting involved you can create the vision and masterplan for your estate.

Go for it

In December 2021 the council's Cabinet approved that not only could the regeneration go ahead, but it was to be a wider regeneration than clearing and demolishing some of the tower blocks and building houses,



important as those things are. This means there will be a masterplan for the whole area where we think about how lots of things work together; housing, green spaces, community facilities, getting about, jobs, shops and look at these based on residents' priorities. For example, lots of people are already saying they'd like safe play areas and activities for children and young people.

The big questions

If we are to do this wider regeneration then there are some key themes to explore and Pioneer Group are here to talk to as many residents as possible about what you'd love to see to make your estate a better place for all to live, play and work. They are popping up in all kinds of places across the estate such as schools, community venues, cafe's, community lunches, green spaces and look out for some fun events including over the Easter holidays to come along to in places such as the Dell, the Pods, the library and more.

Find out more by liking the Druids Heath Together Facebook page or follow on Twitter **@ourdruidsheath**.

Already we have heard some key things that are important to local people and we want to hear

more. So, we'd love you to take 10 minutes to fill in a community survey to make sure your voice and that of your family and neighbours are heard. You can access the survey online at: **yourdatateam.co.uk/druidsheath**

We'll also be posting this out to everyone as well so please complete it to share your views and also be entered into a prize draw!

On to the masterplan

We will now work together to create a masterplan which should set a compelling vision for the future, not just a layout for the estate.

It will be a document and policy guide which is designed to help residents and the community to create a vision of what they want to

look like in the future and guide decisions on land use development to bring together houses, parks, green spaces, community facilities, commercial and employment opportunities together.

The masterplan will bring together you the residents of Druids Heath as well as local organisations, service providers and Birmingham City Council to look at how we deliver the future Druids Heath.

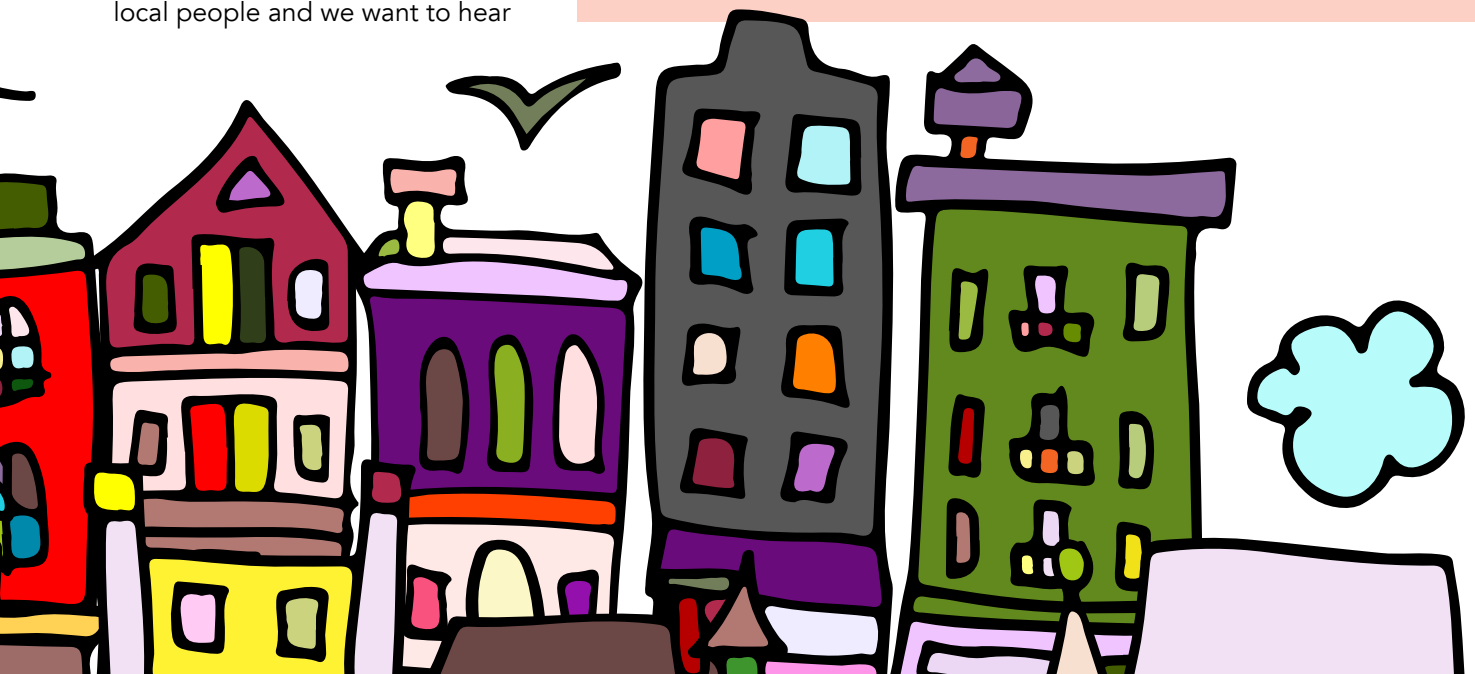
Pioneer, The Community Engagement Company, will work with you and the community to feed information back to the council and Architect to develop a vision and masterplan for the Druids Heath Estate.

Fun family events for April

Shape the future of the estate at two exciting events:

Explore the Dell – Wed 13 Apr, 1-4 pm, The Dell
Engage in practical crafts, habitat creation, path clearance and gardening. Think about the role of green spaces in the regeneration.

Family Open Day – Sat 23 Apr, Druids Heath Library
Outdoor events, games, face painting, free quality coffee and Creme Eggs! View the model of the estate and regeneration boards and set out your vision and priorities for the design.



WHAT YOU HAVE TOLD US SO FAR



Lots of people have asked us some key questions already and here's some of the key things we have heard:

- Green spaces are important and deserve to be developed.
- Create play spaces and activities for children and young people.
- Better walking routes through the estate including the green spaces so things connect much better.
- Tackle fly-tipping and boy racers through how you design things.
- Make the estate safer and look nicer, including the pavements and steps.
- Things need to be safe and accessible for everyone.
- Homes that are energy efficient and affordable to heat.
- Build some houses early and make the process of people being able to come back to live in Druids Heath as easy as possible.
- A group of children Pioneer have been working with said that what was important to them was that there are nice houses to live in and safe places to play.

Q&A

If people are moved out, will they be able to come back if they want to?

Option to return means that you can come back to a new build Druids Heath property once a home that meets your housing need, under the allocations policy, is available.

Which part of the estate is being regenerated?

All parts of the estate will be consulted on the options for regeneration in the planning process. The recent Cabinet report has defined a boundary or red line area that sets out the primary focus of the regeneration and will start

with land to the north of Bells Lane in this first phase. This includes the opportunity to accelerate the regeneration by accessing opportunity sites outside the red line area.

Will the homes for sale include options enabling residents now, or in the future, to purchase through schemes like rent to buy and shared ownership?

Yes – the estate will be a mixed tenure development with shared access to all amenities and services. There should be more new council homes than have been demolished.

How will the regeneration affect me, my family and friends?

The regeneration is more than

physical changes, it will create new jobs including through the construction work but we will also work with others to create opportunities for training and skills and new creative spaces.

Will building start straight away?

We're looking at three sites in the west of the estate and have started to speak to nearby residents about the possibility of building homes on these sites. We are working up ideas from feedback and will consult with the neighbouring community again in early May.

What happens next?

Whilst some timescales are subject to residents' feedback, some of the key events are shown below:

2022



From now to summer

Planning for real – imagining your Druids Heath and working together to design it.



Autumn

Taking your ideas and agreeing the vision and masterplan.

We'll keep you updated in each newsletter.

NEWS ROUND-UP



Druids Heath Celebrating Communities Success

Place Prospectors, a Community Interest Company from Druids Heath, are set to work with Birmingham artist Mohammed Ali, to create a large-scale mural in the area thanks to funding from Birmingham City Council as part of the Birmingham 2022 Festival.

Hart's Community Adventures also successfully got funding from the Commonwealth Games Celebrating Communities Fund. They are going to run six-week wellbeing programmes for individuals over the age of 18 who are struggling with mental health such as stress, depression and anxiety. The aim is to bring people together while escaping the busyness of everyday life for a couple hours each week and taking some time for themselves while learning new skills and creating some natural crafts.

If you would like to find out more, please look for their Facebook page [@hartscommunityadventurecic](#) or email them at hartscommunityadventure@gmail.com



Your Community Needs You

Pioneer are working with local residents and groups to encourage them to step forward and help with listening to the whole community and to develop groups and activities they would like to see.

Get in touch with Pioneer directly if you'd like to help them connect with the wider community or if you've got a great idea to make Druids Heath a better place for all to live. We'll keep celebrating those who step up to make a difference.

Keeping in Touch

There are several ways you can stay connected to what is happening:

- **Newsletter** – We will do these every three to four months.
- **Social media** – We will post information on the notice boards around the estate. Like our Facebook page or follow us on Twitter.
- **Post** – Individual letters will be sent to those directly affected.
- **Website** – Coming soon.

More information will follow in the next newsletter.

Rehousing Update

We hope to demolish Saxelby House and Kingswood House later this year and will keep you updated with progress.

We are currently rehousing

residents from Barratts House and have begun to speak to residents in Hillcroft House who are next in the rehousing programme from April 2022. Before we commence rehousing we will be writing to you to introduce you to your rehousing officer and discuss the process with you.

The next tower block in the programme will be Brookpiece House and we expect to start speaking to residents from April 2023.

Assif, the dedicated officer looking after the rehousing will be in touch directly but if you have any questions please contact him on assif.raza@birmingham.gov.uk



COMMONWEALTH GAMES 2022

The Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games are coming! There are lots of free activities you can get involved in over the summer. From watching the marathon along the Pershore Road to taking in one of the performances at the Birmingham 2022 Festival. To find out more go to birmingham2022.com



New online portal for women facing domestic abuse



The council has launched an online portal to help women facing domestic abuse – as part of our Inform Women, Transform Lives campaign. We are taking part in this global initiative because we want to ensure that women in every neighbourhood and community are empowered and able to enjoy full access to information and the great opportunities Birmingham can offer during the decade ahead. Information on the initiative can be found at: cartercenter.org/info4women