

Kingsbridge News

A newsletter to update Kingsbridge Estate residents on the regeneration proposals – August 2023

Welcome to the August 2023 edition of the Kingsbridge regeneration newsletter. The regeneration team haven't been as visible working on the estate over the last few months. That's because we have been doing a lot of administrative work needed to prepare for the next stage of consultation and design, which should lead to a planning application to regenerate the estate.

PROJECT UPDATE

A crucial task that is underway is the work to select a development partner who will be responsible for fully designing and then building your new homes. We hope this work will be completed by October 2023 and we will then be able to share an update with you on the next steps for the project.

Since the resident ballot in favour for full regeneration of the Kingsbridge Estate in December 2023, the regeneration team have also been hard at work completing

housing needs assessments across the estate. A housing need assessment is used to find out how many people live in your home as well as any requirements you need going forward. Assessing housing need is the first step in the process of planning for your future home.

The team have now met with 77% of households on the estate to complete their housing needs assessment. If you still haven't had your assessment, please contact us to book in an appointment.

RECLAIM OUR RIVER

We have recently contacted by Reclaim Our River, a local campaign group who want to ensure that the Thames path is fully open to pedestrians and cyclists along its entire length. As I am sure you know the Thames path runs along the river behind the Kingsbridge estate and is currently blocked by a wall between the Kingsbridge Estate and the Odyssey Estate. See the picture below:



Reclaim Our River has said the following to us:

‘An uninterrupted Thames Path would be a gift to local people as a free park, available for all, stretching all the way into London. A river path is different to an ordinary park because people can enjoy long walks along the river, often over many miles. A park is usually a small, contained area and so is quite restrictive.

We want to see children walk or cycle to school, surrounded by nature rather than surrounded by traffic fumes. We want to see joggers and dog walkers enjoying nature. We want to see families enjoying a free day out, along the beautiful River Thames.

The Reclaim Our River group would like to see the wall to the south of the Kingsbridge estate, as well as other blockages along the path removed to allow free transit along the river front. At the moment the Kingsbridge estate wall means that an additional walk of 400 yards around it is required to continue along the Thames path.’

During our regeneration consultation in 2022, the proposals showed the wall being removed and the pathway being opened. This was designed for better accessibility and movement to and around the estate, plus we know this is an aspiration for Tower Hamlets Council to have the Thames Pathway open to all wherever possible.

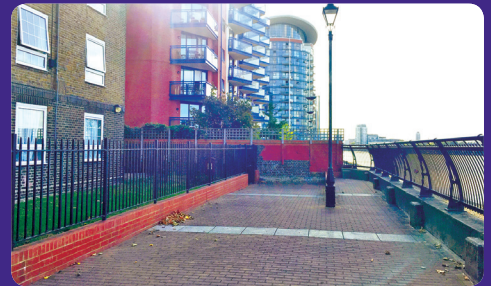
We are considering the possibility of demolishing the wall sooner rather than later, in advance of any regeneration, to open the Thames path. We are keen to hear your thoughts about opening the pathway.

Here are some quotes from users of the path shared by Reclaim Our River:

“I use Thames path daily. I use it to walk my dog and for personal runs and walks. I find it critical for my own mental well-being to be close to nature in otherwise a busy city, that is London.”

“I use the Thames Path at least twice a week. Sometimes just for the pleasure of the walk & sometimes with purpose - like a shopping trip to Canary Wharf. It was absolutely vital to me as an escape during lock down & has become a regular exercise walk.”

“We use the Thames Path to walk and cycle safely with the children (under 8 years old) . Going from Wapping to Canary Wharf.”



Please scan the QR code below with a smart phone or tablet to get access to an online survey and to answer some brief questions about the pathway. Alternatively, please contact us using these details to let us know your thoughts:



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