

Oakfield – a different approach to community building

With coronavirus impacting on every aspect of life and providing new challenges every day, we hope you and your families are staying safe and well. As construction starts on site we've put extra measures in place to keep those on site and the communities we work with, safe.

In this issue we'd like to tell you about these measures and update you on changes you can expect to see on site over the coming months. We'd also like to share some useful resources and ways you can help your local community at this time and introduce you to one of your local community groups.



Building Society



How we're staying safe during coronavirus

Ensuring the safety of those on site and the local community is the number one priority for us and our construction partner Mi-space. At the start of the pandemic we took careful, but swift steps, to review Government guidelines to be able to continue working safely.

At this early stage of construction, the focus has been on clearing the site and has only required a handful of the team to be on site at any one time. Social distancing is observed as people arrive for work and during the working day. Extra hygiene measures and daily briefings are in place to support people working onsite.

While many of you are at home at the moment, Mi-space has reviewed its working hours to avoid any additional disruption.



Usual site hours	7:30am – 6pm
Current site hours during lockdown	8am – 5:30pm
Hours that noisy machinery will be operated within	9am – 12:30pm and 1:30pm – 3:30pm

For any queries that require immediate attention, Mi-space's site manager Rob Bennett can be contacted on **07866 916444**.

What's coming up?

In the coming weeks, those of you that live closest to Oakfield will start receiving a regular newsletter from Mi-space, our construction partner.

Mi-space will be giving you some important updates on things happening and due to happen on site and you'll also be able to keep up to date with construction information on the noticeboard on the hoarding on Marlowe Avenue. We'll be continuing to send out this quarterly newsletter to keep you posted on our broader aspirations for the site and Oakfield's involvement with the wider community.



We're excited to announce that we now have an Affordable Housing provider for Oakfield. GreenSquare's core purpose is to be a brilliant landlord and provide both rental and shared ownership homes for people who cannot afford to purchase or rent on the open market. GreenSquare will be taking on the 71 Affordable homes that Oakfield will have in its community. Find out more about the company by visiting [greensquaregroup.com](https://www.greensquaregroup.com).





Welcome to SWAP

The Swindon Walcot and Parks Community group (SWAP) works to improve quality of life, reduce crime and create a greater sense of pride and respect within the local community. We caught up with Carol Brownlee, Events Officer at SWAP, to hear more about the important work they do.

Carol, tell us how SWAP started?

Well it started around ten years ago when the South West Regional Development Agency provided money for some local restoration. Some of the funding was put by for initiatives such as the one I joined, to create a safe space for children and teenagers to play and spend time. After that initiative was over (the result of which was the skate park, multi-use games area and children's play area in Buckhurst Park that are enjoyed by so many young people to this day), our committee decided to stay on and continue working to help the community. So that's how SWAP was born!

That's amazing. So how are you funded, and how are you run?

We meet monthly to discuss what activities we might like to run in the area and discuss any local issues. Our main focus is on young people and older members of the community. We hold social afternoons regularly, have worked with local children to plant a copse of trees at Buckhurst Park and run seasonal events such as a fun day we held on the Queen's Jubilee.

Sounds like a fantastic cause to be a part of, how can people get involved?

We'd love more people in the local community to get involved and are desperately in need of volunteers to help with activities. We're very flexible, whether someone can spare three days a month or three hours, any support is welcome. Activities might include helping to source prizes for a fun day, supporting group activities, or helping carry out some light maintenance on the copse/our planters.

With the current pandemic, all events and meetings have been cancelled for the time being, but once the risk is over, we usually meet at 6pm on the last Thursday of every month at Buckhurst Park Community Centre. We'd love to see some fresh faces there.

You can email SWAP on safetycollege@hotmail.co.uk or phone them on **01793 692636** to find out more.

Local community activity

For those that live close to Cavendish Square, the collaborative work of some amazing community groups is helping to bring a bit of colour and joy to the local area. Flowers have been placed near to Co-op to be enjoyed by those queueing outside and some colourful drawings by local children have been placed around the Square in shop windows to spread some happiness at this time. Below are a selection of those pictures. We think you'll agree, they're all fantastic!



Useful information during lockdown

Local businesses

For those of you that are self-isolating, the Co-op in Cavendish Square has adapted its service to be able to deliver groceries to those that are unable to visit in person. Just call **01793 521403** to speak to a Co-op colleague instore. The store will take your order over the phone, along with your telephone number and home address, pick the order and get back in touch with any items that are unavailable. Once the pick is complete they will then take payment over the phone and confirm a delivery time. A local volunteer will then deliver your shopping to you.

Some local shops are also open with reduced hours:

Pop Ins, Cavendish Square – 9am-2pm Monday to Saturday

Parks Post Office, Whitbourne Avenue – 9:30am-3:30pm Monday to Friday

These times are subject to change so please check notice displays in branch for the most recent updates.





Keith's corner

Oakfield's Community Organiser Keith is here to support the residents of Park, Nythe and Walcot. You can reach him on **07825 832843** or by emailing the Oakfield team on **oakfield@nationwide.co.uk** with any questions about the development or any ideas you have to support the local community.

If you're a local business that's offering a service during the coronavirus pandemic or are involved in a support group or charity that is doing great work in the area, please let us know.

Need someone to talk to?

Lockdown can be a worrying time. To speak to a friendly voice, day or night, you can call the Samaritans on **116 123** from any phone. Calls are free of charge.

Age UK also has a helpline that is open from 8am-7pm every day. If you're an older person or a friend, family member or carer of an older person and are worried about them, you can call Age UK free on **0800 678 1602**.

For advice on how to look after your mental wellbeing during coronavirus, NHS Every Mind Matters is providing some useful tips. Visit **[nhs.uk/oneyou/every-mind-matters](https://www.nhs.uk/oneyou/every-mind-matters)**.



Helping those in need

The Swindon Night Shelter is seeking financial donations to help to support Swindon's homeless community and those in sheltered accommodation.

Find out more on how to help at:
swindonnightshelter.uk/help-us

