

Barton Minutes

Jane Winfield and Stephen Clarke, City Council representatives on Barton LLP introduced providing an update on the activities of Barton Oxford LLP over the last quarter.

Within the first phase of the development 136 properties were in occupation, of which 60 had been purchased by Oxford City Housing Company for social rent. The recent wet weather had not held up progress on Phase 2 of the development.

An update was provided in relation to the management of the development's pavilion. The LLP had entered into a service agreement with the Council, enabling the Council to carry out maintenance and compliance functions. Reverting to the understanding of the s.106 agreement, this would be done on a freehold basis. The Council would then be anticipated to grant a lease to the clubs involved.

A free temporary bus link was being established from the development to the John Radcliffe hospital, expected to run until September after which the County Council contract for the permanent service would be ready to take over.

The final phase of the development (bar a small element deliberately kept aside) was reported to be under offer. Detailed heads of terms had been drawn up and legal teams instructed. Whilst positive, this was proving to be time consuming. Work was also being done to develop a benchmark quality document, which would provide a more enduring influence on the development than relying on the planning process alone.

Following questioning, the level of demand was reported to be dropping off a little from high initial levels. However, there was still strong demand off-plan for Phase 2 of the development.

An update was sought regarding the Healthy New Town funding secured by the LLP. A lot had been diverted to support the existing Barton Park estate due to the particularly acute health inequalities of 'old' Barton, with significant amounts having been invested in social prescribing. Additional funding had been secured, and from a Council perspective, it was considered to be a big success that the benefits of the development were being shared between new and existing residents. The Panel welcomed the news that Grovenor had also donated approximately £90k to Healthy New Town projects as part of their corporate social responsibility funding.

The report was **NOTED** with comment from the Panel that the efforts by all involved at Barton to spread the benefits of the development beyond its own boundaries were to be particularly commended.

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