

Shaping the future of **Buckskin & South Ham**

Your Community Newsletter – Edition 7, June 2025



**A great read
for everyone**

Keeping you up to date

We're celebrating a year of 'Your Community Newsletter'. We hope you're enjoying learning about everything that's happening locally and the progress around shaping the future of Buckskin and South Ham.

We had a great turnout for our Spring events and exhibition, where we shared how our work together is shaping a shared vision for Buckskin and South Ham. Thank you to everyone who came along, especially the Westside Community Association for providing fun activities for the children, the Milestones Living History Museum for their reminiscence display, and Oakley Stitchers, who worked hard with their repair shop and knitting classes.

We'll soon be launching our summer of engagement with lots of opportunities to get involved (see page 17). Check out the pull-out section in this issue for more information on the 'engagement process' and our assurances to residents around the ideas we're exploring together, or visit our website for updates shapingthefuture.commonplace.is/



You'll also find answers to frequently asked questions on our website.

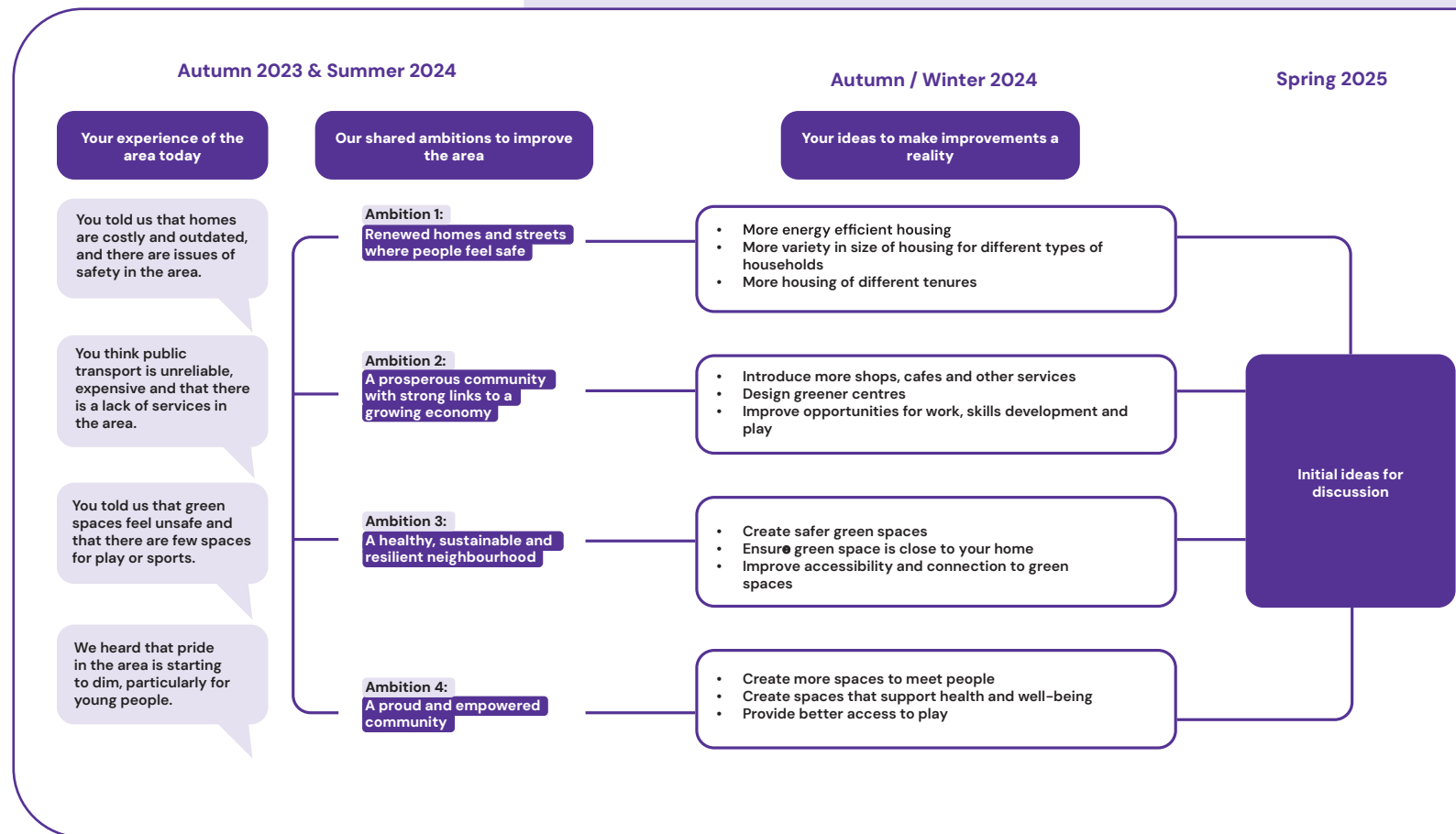
We understand there's been some confusion and misinformation around the ideas we've shared for potential improvements to the neighbourhoods. Please get in touch if you have any unanswered questions, our door is always open.

Email: yourcommunity@sovereign.org.uk

Developing a place vision with you:

From your feedback over the last year, we created four shared ambitions for the area.

The diagram below shows how your feedback has directly shaped our place vision so far, but there are more stages to go before any firm proposals emerge:



Engagement Process

Timeline

Since Autumn 2023, we've been talking to residents about how we could invest in and improve the area. This process has included understanding resident views about the area, discussing ambitions for the future of the neighbourhood, and sharing early ideas about what changes could be delivered for further input from the community.

We are only part way through this process of engagement and we want to hear from more residents over the summer and autumn about what matters to people living in South Ham and Buckskin. There will be further opportunities to share your views throughout the summer and autumn before we progress with any further ideas.

Take a look at the timeline to see what you can expect in the months ahead.

Discovery Period Phase 0

Autumn 2023 - Winter

Public exhibition 1



Community meetings

Community meetings were held with groups such as Westside Association Group, South Ham Action Group and Buckskin Action Group.

Discovery Period Phase 1

Summer 2024

Community Researchers

Public exhibition 2



Workshops

A series of workshops were carried out with members of the community to discuss a range of themes, such as housing.



Young Design Academy

We ran a local youth design academy programme with 16 to 21 year olds, who came up with a series of ideas on how the area could be improved.



Community Co-design Associates



A group of local people were created to work on developing a plan.

Public exhibition 3



Discovery Period Phase 2

Winter 2024

Carried out technical research of the area

Recruited a professional design team

Community Co-design Associates

We continued to refine our ideas with local resident CDAs during workshops.

Discovery Period Phase 3

Spring 2025



Public exhibition 4

Reviewing your feedback and technical research

Sharing and refining proposals for change

Further community engagement

We shared an initial illustration to show one possible way these ideas could come together over time and invited residents to provide further feedback.

Summer 2025

Review and refine the ambitions for the area with residents

Listening events to hear more from residents about the distinct neighbourhoods in South Ham and Buckskin

Autumn 2025

Revisiting and reviewing ideas through a neighbourhoods co-design process with residents

2026 and onwards

Continue plan refinement and further design detail for individual sites

Seek planning approvals

Explain support available for all affected residents and businesses

Share general details for each neighbourhood

Outline likely timescales

Areas where change could happen earlier

Potential construction over 20 year period

IMPORTANT!!

With large projects there are many different processes to consider such as planning applications, securing funding and local consultations. This means each project will take multiple years to complete.

Shaping the future of Buckskin and South Ham: no fixed plans – just ideas to explore together

Since Autumn 2023, we’ve been listening to local residents about what they love about their area, and where improvements could be made with the right investment.

We’ve already heard from many people, but we know there are still many more voices to hear before any long-term decisions are made.

We know that some people are naturally worried about possible changes, and that some drawings have caused misunderstanding. But we want to be absolutely clear: nothing has been decided yet. There are no final long-term plans. All drawings that you see simply reflect early ideas for discussion with residents.

We are listening and continuing to explore long-term ideas which include both retrofit and refurbishment of homes, streets and green space, and ideas which would require greater change in some areas. But nothing has been decided yet and there are no final plans or areas identified for redevelopment.

If you have any concerns or questions, including how we would support all households,

through any long-term change, get in touch, and we can arrange for our team to visit you for a one-to-one conversation.

What has happened so far?

We began with a series of listening events and gathered information about education, employment, and health in the area. We also recruited a group of resident Community Researchers to work alongside us and other local partners, helping us better understand life in Buckskin and South Ham.

This early work helped us to take immediate action, in response to what we had heard. We worked with Westside Community Association to open the new Kings Road café; and with local artists, children and gardeners to improve the area around Burnaby shops. We forged closer working with the police and council on community safety.

Throughout summer and autumn 2024, we shared our early ambitions and ideas for longer-term improvements – shaped by your feedback – through walkabouts, workshops, pop-up events, exhibitions, and drop-ins.

Nine local residents stepped forward to become Community Co-design Associates, and we also launched the Young Design Academy – open to all young people locally – giving them a voice in shaping the future too. Both groups identified some ideas for change.

We’ve been working closely with the community and partners to help shape these ideas further. We recently shared some early thoughts at several local events, including an illustration showing how the ideas could work together. But again – this is not a final plan.

You can find more about what we’ve heard so far – and explore the ideas – on our website: shapingthefuture.commonplace.is/

What’s next?

We remain focused on making real, positive change – based on what matters to you.

We’ll be holding events in the summer and we will write to people separately to invite them to these.

We’re investing an additional £750,000 this year to improve maintenance services for our customers across the area and are setting up a dedicated local team to strengthen our support

where it’s needed most. They will also work with the whole community to make sure any questions or concerns are answered.

The old Beacon pub is being turned into a new Community Hub for South Ham, in partnership with the Westside Community Association – a space for learning, support, and community connection. We’ve also bought the former Camrose football stadium site, which will be developed into much-

needed affordable homes for local families.

In the shorter term, you’ll also see two exciting community projects moving forward.

- We’re working with Milestones Museum to capture and celebrate the stories of residents who moved here during the original London overspill – with a new book being published soon.



- And thanks to your feedback, we’re hoping to introduce a local trail for walking, running, and cycling – inspired by the historic Race Around the Houses, with a new route designed in collaboration with local artists.

We’re in your neighbourhood now

Your Voice Matters

Over the coming weeks, our team will be out and about sharing information with residents to raise awareness about potential changes in Buckskin and South Ham. There are no final plans – just early ideas shaped by what you’ve told us so far. We want to keep listening, keep learning, and make sure everyone’s voice is heard.

We’re knocking on doors

We’re visiting homes to:

- Share more information about what’s been happening and what our next steps could look like. And what ideas are being explored

- Point you towards more details, including how to arrange a follow-up phone call or book a one-to-one meeting with our team, or where to sign up to be kept updated on next steps and how to share your views

- We want to be open about what we know and don’t know yet

We know people have different perspectives and levels of interest, and we’re here to support you in whatever way works best for you.

Whether you’re an SNG customer, homeowner, or renting from someone else – we’re here to support you and work with you in the best way possible.

What to expect

- A friendly visit from our team
- A chance to ask any questions about next steps
- An option to book a one-to-one chat. But please remember that we won’t have answers to all your questions at this stage of the process.

Your safety matters

- Our team will always wear a photo ID
- We’ll never ask to come inside your home
- You’re welcome to speak to us on the doorstep or arrange a visit at a time and place that suits you
- You can contact us at any time to check if a visitor is part of our team

Get in touch

Want to book a visit or find out more?

Phone: 0300 5000 926

Email: yourcommunity@sovereign.org.uk

Website: shapingthefuture.commonplace.is/

We want you to feel comfortable, informed, and a part of the conversation.

Co-Design: Shaping the Future Together

Potential regeneration of an area isn’t just about new buildings—it’s about creating spaces that truly work for the people who live there. That’s why the Community Co-design Associates team (CDAs) is at the heart of the process. Rather than simply asking for input from residents, we’re working with the CDAs to ensure that any proposed new homes, green spaces, and community facilities reflect the wider communities’ needs and aspirations.

What have the Community Co-design Associates been doing?

- They’ve joined workshops and design sessions – Shared their ideas, and influenced the initial ideas.
- Helped to shape public spaces – Told us what’s important for parks, play areas, housing, and community hubs.
- Taken part in pop-up events and exhibitions – Seen what’s planned and supported ways for you to have your say.

This autumn, we’re keen to welcome new Community Co-design Associates to work with us on ideas for different neighbourhoods. If this sounds like something you’d like to get involved with, email: yourcommunity@sovereign.org.uk



You said, we're doing...



Buckskin Spring Clean: a community effort to brighten your neighbourhood

On Thursday 13th March, SNG and a fantastic team of volunteers came together for a community spring clean in Buckskin! The day was filled with litter picking, fly-tipping removal, and expert gardening support from Basingstoke Mencap, all working towards making the area cleaner, greener, and more enjoyable for everyone.

A huge thank you to all the incredible volunteers who rolled up their sleeves to help. A special shoutout to our

suppliers and consultants – Basingstoke Mencap, Logic Contract Services Ltd., Jewson's, and PJA – for donating time, equipment, and expertise to make this event such a huge success in just one day!

Brightening shop fronts: a new addition to the arts trail

Our community arts trail continues to grow, with new artwork popping up across the neighbourhood! The latest addition can be found on the shutters of Burnaby Bites in Burnaby Close, created by the talented Willow the Wispa in collaboration with students

from Blue Coat Secondary School.

Wispa shared her expertise, inspiring students to explore how impactful art can bring a community together. Their vision came to life in a vibrant, meaningful piece that reflects the heart of South Ham through their eyes.

A huge thank you to the students for their creativity and hard work – the result is bold, beautiful, and truly special!

Supporting careers & finances: free community events held in Buckskin

This February and March, we teamed up with expert organisations in employment, career development, and household

finance management – covering everything from energy savings and budgeting to debt support.

At our events in the Ridgeway Community Centre, residents of Buckskin and South Ham also received instant, one-on-one CV and interview support, helping them take the next step in their careers.

A huge thank you to our incredible partners: Smart Works, Community Furniture Project, HCC, BCOT Adult Learning, Itchen College, Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council, Clarion Futures Employment Support Officer, Citizens Advice Basingstoke, Hill Energy Saving Support, and SNG's Employment & Skills and Customer Income Advice Team for their invaluable expertise and support!



In the spotlight

Young voices shaping the future: Blue Coat students lead the way

In March we had the fantastic opportunity to collaborate with Year 10 students at Blue Coat Secondary School, tapping into their creativity and fresh perspectives to help shape the future of Buckskin and South Ham.

Working together with local schools is important. It supports them in preparing and equipping young people to forge their own, better futures. During the sessions, we looked at:



Reimagining Community Spaces

On 3 March, GCSE Geography and Technology students explored what makes a thriving local centre. Drawing inspiration from successful projects across the country, they shared exciting ideas – spaces for local artists and entrepreneurs, inclusive hubs for all ages, and ways to create a welcoming atmosphere for residents and visitors.

They also tackled a big opportunity: repurposing empty garages. Their forward-thinking ideas suggested ways to transform these spaces into vibrant business and community hubs, filling gaps they see in their neighbourhood. Their enthusiasm and deep consideration for the wider community were truly inspiring.

Our team is reviewing their innovative ideas to explore how we might bring them to life!

Inspiring future careers

We returned on 20th March for a careers fair, where over 150 students met professionals from SNG, Hill, and our consultant teams. They gained insights into diverse career paths, including apprenticeships and emerging roles in the housing and construction industry. Many students left with new ideas and aspirations, inspired by possibilities they hadn't considered before.

A huge thank you to the students at Blue Coat School – your ideas and ambitions are helping shape the future! We hope to hold many more different opportunities for young people to get involved.

Your community notice board

Discover what's happening in your neighbourhood – and how to get involved!





Your community notice board

As Summer fast approaches and we're starting to think about the warmer weather, look out for activities happening locally. Add the dates to your diary and pop along.

Basingstoke Church

St Peter's (South Ham), Pinkerton Road, RG22 6QP.

After School Café:

Wednesdays (term time) 2.15pm to 4.45pm

After-school play café for primary-aged kids with their families. It's all free, including drinks and snacks.

See you at The Four: 4pm Sundays.

It's church but not as you know it! An hour of worship, prayer, and community, light snacks and drinks.

Westside Community Pantry



The pantry is running from Kings Cafe on Kings Road

Tuesday 10am to 1pm

Wednesday 10am to 1pm

The Pantry is a membership scheme aimed at helping people make their money go further. Members will be able to get 12 food items for £5.

Buckskin Foodbank



Buckskin Evangelical Church, Chiltern Way, RG22 5BB.

Friday 10.30am to 12.30pm.

As well as food parcel collections, you can also receive support from Citizens Advice every week, and there's an Andover Mind wellbeing drop-in every fortnight.

CGHB Surgeries – News from the Patients Participation Group (PPG)

For details of what's on and to get a copy of the latest newsletter visit: www.cghppg.weebly.com/news

Email: cghb.surgeryppg@btinternet.com



Kings Café

Kings Road, South Ham:

Tuesday to Thursday, 9am to 3pm
Great choice of food available from a full breakfast to homemade cakes.



Kempshott Village Hall, Pack Lane, Basingstoke, RG22 5HN.

Inspero Food Bank, Community Shop and Fridge:
Tuesdays 9.30am to 12.30pm

(Note: open 3 days per week Monday, Tuesday, and Fridays for emergency food parcels upon referral).

It provides a range of food, hygiene items, cleaning products and pet food.

A small donation is requested.

Love2Cook:

children's cooking classes. Limited free bursary spaces are available. During the class the children cook a delicious and nutritious two-course meal under the guidance of a chef and experienced volunteers.
www.inspero.org.uk/love2cook/

Contact Inspero for further information:

Phone: 07950 686614

Email: catherine@inspero.org.uk

St Andrew's Trinity Methodist Church



Western Way, South Ham, RG22 6ER

Mug and Biscuit:

Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday 10am to 1.30pm – hot food served until 1pm

Mums and Toddlers:

Thursday 10am to 11am, term time

Boys' Brigade:

Friday evenings – from 5 to 8 yrs 6.30pm to 7.45pm. From 9 years to older 7.45pm to 10pm. Contact info, email: theresa.strachan@googlemail.com number: 01256329616.

Knitting Group:

Wednesday 1pm to 3pm, term-time, includes shared projects and your own projects, a chat and a cuppa.

Thornycroft Bowls Club

Clubhouse in Russell Howard Park, South Ham, RG22 6PS.

The club offers a warm and friendly welcome. Its aim is to promote bowls as an aid to physical and mental well-being.

Tuesdays from 6pm to dusk, with time for socialising afterwards. The season is from April to September. Visit www.thornycroftbowlsclub.co.uk for further information or phone Dave Wright on 01256 461820.

Buckskin Evangelical Church



Chiltern Way, RG22 5BB.

Refresh Café:

Tuesday (school term-time only), 10am to 12pm. Enjoy friendly conversation, refreshments, and free Wi-Fi.

Stepping Stones:

Wednesday, 10am to 11:30am.

A Mother and toddler group. Lots of toys to play with, socialising for both baby and mum as well as a hot drink and snack.

Allstarz:

Wednesday, 5.30pm to 6.30pm.

A free club for children to come to, they get a snack do crafts and games and have a story.

Buckskin Food pantry:

Thursday 9am to 12.30pm.

A place where people can come and collect out-of-date food and have a cuppa and a sweet treat.

Alpha Course:

Thursday, 9:45 to 10:45. A course where you can explore Christianity and its answers to some of life's questions.

Coffee Morning:

Thursday, 10.30am to 12:00 noon.

A social space to enjoy a coffee and some treats.

Stitch and Craft:

Thursday, 8am to 10am.

This is a social group where everyone brings along the craft they love and spends time doing it together.

Lunch Plus:

Friday, between 11am to 1.30pm.

It begins with coffee and a biscuit, followed by lunch and pudding. (Voluntary donation of £3).



Basingstoke and Deane

Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council's Community Safety Patrol Officers (CSPOs)

As part of the council's Safer Communities Team, the Community Safety Patrol Officers (CSPOs) aim to improve the wellbeing of local residents by helping to create a feeling of safety across the borough and the team can often be seen on patrol in Buckskin and South Ham.

Focusing on antisocial behaviour and environmental crime, the team works closely with local communities, the police, and other agencies to carry out high visibility patrols, providing reassurance and deterring and addressing antisocial behaviour by using Hampshire Constabulary accredited powers and antisocial behaviour legislation.

For more information

visit www.basingstoke.gov.uk/CSPO-team email csपो@basingstoke.gov.uk or call 01256 844844 and ask for the CSPOs.

To report antisocial behaviour, call 101 or report online at www.hampshire.police.uk/ro/report in an emergency or to report a crime, call 999.

Ridgeway Community Centre



Blackdown Close,
Buckskin, RG22 5BW.

Eco-food Market Pantry:

Wednesday and Friday
10am to 1pm

12 food items for £5, bring your own containers and boxes. 0-5 yrs activities (please look at our Facebook page for information).

Youth Club:

Tuesday 4.45pm to 6.15pm
(£2.00 per child)

Parent Toddler Group:

Tuesday 10am to 12pm
£1.50 per child,
(includes refreshment).

Ridgeway Ravers:

Wednesday 10am to 12 noon
Over 55's club, new members welcome.

Lunch Club:

Thursday 12 noon to 12.30pm
All ages, £6 for dinner and pudding, tea/coffee.
To book call
01256 470665

Cosy Corner Café:

Monday to Thursday 9am to 2pm.
Friday 9am to 1pm (Great choice of food available from a full breakfast to baked potatoes).



Basingstoke and Deane

Mental wellness support

Life can often feel overwhelmingly busy and stressful, making it hard to relax or find a healthy work life balance.

The SEEDL platform addresses this by offering free online wellness courses, including guided relaxation readings, desk yoga, and training around mental wellbeing.

These resources can help you promote a better level of mental health, preventing issues before they arise.

These courses are FREE for anyone living in Basingstoke and Deane and you can register at www.SEEDL.com/o/basingstoke



Get ready to jump headfirst into a summer of wonder as Basingstoke Festival returns for its fourteenth fabulous year across three weekends between Friday 20 June to Sunday 6 July 2025.

It's back, brighter, bolder and bursting with everything that makes our borough brilliant. This year's programme is jam-packed with jaw-dropping street theatre, mesmerising dance, circus delights, live music and outdoor spectacles that will stop you in your tracks (in the best way possible).

Basingstoke Festival is a free annual outdoor arts festival celebrating local creative talent and national and international artists across arts, heritage, culture, community, and place in Basingstoke town centre and across the borough.

Find out more at www.basingstokefestival.co.uk

We want to hear from other local groups about their forthcoming events, what services they provide, when and where they meet – anything which may be of interest to others.

Use this regular newsletter to publicise your events and provide details of local support that's available. We'd also love to hear your thoughts on this edition and what you'd like to see included in the future.

Email: yourcommunity@sovereign.org.uk

Tell us what matters to you

We're holding a series of summer listening events across Buckskin and South Ham – and we'd love to hear from you.

We're not sharing new ideas. These sessions are all about hearing from people we may not have spoken to yet. We'll revisit the early information we shared and talk through your priorities for improving your neighbourhood. Come and chat to us about your home, your neighbourhood and what matters most to you.

To help us manage numbers and make sure everyone gets time with a member of the team, please book a time slot here: bit.ly/45Mt5aF



Or by scanning the QR code

Can't book in advance? No problem – you can still drop in during the times below. A few spaces will be available on the day.

Dates and locations:

Saturday 28th June

Ridgeway Centre,
Blackdown Close, RG22 5BN
10.00am to 3.30pm

Wednesday 23rd July

Buckskin Evangelical Church,
Chiltern Way, RG22 5BB
3.00pm to 7.30pm

Thursday 3rd July

St Peters Church, Pinkerton Road, RG22 6QP
3.00pm to 7.30pm

Saturday 2nd August

Russell Howard Pavillion, RG22 6LF
10.00am to 2.30pm

The events are a chance to listen to more residents, and we will not be showing any new information at these sessions. Please try to attend the event that is most local to you.

We will keep you up to date on our website so please make sure you sign up for updates.

Sign-up!

To make sure you are the first to hear about upcoming activities and ways to get involved, please sign up for news updates on our dedicated website: <https://shapingthefuture.commonplace.is/>



Find out more

Do you know someone else who would like to receive this community newsletter?

We're using a doorstep distribution company to deliver these newsletters to your home, but you can also view and sign up to receive regular news updates electronically, via our website. You'll also find lots of other information to keep you up to date with what's happening.

Website: shapingthefuture.commonplace.is

Email: yourcommunity@sovereign.org.uk

Phone: 0300 5000 926

Calls from UK landlines are charged at local rates. Charges from mobile telephones vary. The charge for your call will depend on your mobile phone provider and the contract that you have with them.

Please contact us if you'd like a copy of this information in another language or format. Or visit our highly accessible website: shapingthefuture.commonplace.is

Polish

Prosimy o kontakt, jeśli chcieliby Państwo otrzymać kopię tych informacji w innym języku lub formacie. Są one również dostępne na naszej stronie internetowej.

Portuguese

Entre em contacto conosco se desejar uma cópia destas informações noutro idioma ou formato. Ou visite o nosso website, totalmente acessível.

Nepali

कृपया यदि तपाईं यो जानकारीको प्रतिलिपि अन्य भाषा वा ढाँचामा चाहनुहुन्छ भने हामीलाई सम्पर्क गर्नुहोस् । वा हाम्रो पूर्ण रूपमा पहुँच योग्य वेबसाइटमा जानुहोस्।

Hindi

अगर आप इस जानकारी की कॉपी किसी और भाषा या फॉर्मेट में चाहते हैं तो कृपया हमसे संपर्क करें। या हमारी पूरी तरह से ऐक्सेसिबिल वेबसाइट पर जाएँ।

Urdu

اگر آپ کسی دوسری زبان یا فارمیٹ میں اس معلومات کی کاپی چاہتے ہیں تو براہ کرم ہم سے رابطہ کریں۔ یا ہماری مکمل طور پر قابل رسائی ویب سائٹ پر جائیں۔

Arabic

يُرجى الاتصال بنا إذا كنتم ترغبون في الحصول على نسخة من هذه المعلومات بلغة أخرى أو في تنسيق آخر، أو يمكنكم زيارة موقعنا الإلكتروني بكل سهولة ويسر.

Romanian

Vă rugăm să ne contactați dacă doriți o copie a acestor informații într-o altă limbă sau într-un alt format. Sau vizitați website-ul nostru complet accesibil.

