

DOLLIS VALLEY NEWS

Issue 11
April 2015



FOCUS ON APPRENTICES



Desmond Towner is an apprentice bricklayer, pictured above laying bricks for Phase 1 of Dollis Valley



Isaac Din is an apprentice bricklayer, pictured above laying bricks for Phase 1 of Dollis Valley

Countryside is working in partnership with Denbre and Barnet College at Dollis Valley.

Currently we have two apprentice bricklayers, Isaac Din and Desmond Towner, working on Phase 1.

Speaking about how he became an apprentice, 21-year-old Desmond, comments **“After finishing at Christ College in Finchley, I wanted to get started on a career, and knew that it had to be something hands-on. Being in an office all day never really appealed to me. I did very well with Applied Science at school, and started looking at motor mechanics and engineering, but it wasn’t quite right for me. Then I came across construction apprenticeships and bricklaying in particular really appealed to me. I’m now on my third Countryside development, working four days a week on site, and one day a week at Barnet College. I just have a few months left until I am fully qualified, which is exciting.**

Of course, it’s a manual job, but I find it quite satisfying and motivating to look at your work at the end of the day, seeing what you have built, knowing that it is going to be

part of someone’s home. I am looking forward to getting into full-time work in the summer and I think it’s a good career choice and I would recommend it to others. It will certainly help when I come to build my own extension one day!”

Working alongside Desmond is 22-year-old Isaac Din, who is on his second Countryside development. Talking about his career choice, he comments:

“I really enjoy the craftsmanship of what I am learning, and I believe that it is a solid career with great prospects in the house building sector. It’s not as easy as it looks, and I think there is definitely scope for me to progress and specialise within this field. I have been on-site for over ten months, and I am looking forward to completing my training and continuing my career. I’ve met some great people on-site, and we all work together really well.”

If you would like to find out more about being an apprentice with Countryside, please contact:

Paul.Sweeney@cpplc.com

NEW INDEPENDENT RESIDENT ADVISOR!

PPCR is working with all residents and local stakeholders as the Independent Resident Advisor. It is our job to try and make sure that all residents understand what the regeneration involves, why it is being proposed and what it can deliver for you. Part of our job is also to look at the regeneration proposals for the estate, and work with residents to make sure that your priorities and concerns are fully discussed.

Following the retirement of Tim Thurston, we have a new addition to our team, Lorraine Ophelia. She will work with Abraham Nomafo to ensure that you continue to receive the effective independent advice provided to residents by Tim over the past several years.

Lorraine's role will include;

- Ensuring that all residents are fully informed about the Regeneration of Dollis Valley
- Providing residents with the opportunity to ask questions and to receive advice on their housing and regeneration options
- Providing support to homeowners through the buyback process
- Ensuring that all residents are able to participate in the various consultation events taking place during the regeneration process



- Providing independent advice throughout the regeneration process.

We have worked closely with residents and stakeholders to support and represent your interests in discussions with the Council, Countryside, L&Q and the Dollis Valley Partnership Board.

You can contact us on:

0800 317066

(ask for either Lorraine or Abraham)

Email us at:

lophelia@ppcr.org.uk or anomafo@ppcr.org.uk.

OCCUPATION OF THE TERRAPIN SITE

An illegal occupation of protesters of the Terrapin building has been taking place since before Easter. These protesters are from outside of the area and do not have the support of the Valley Preschool staff or parents or the partners of the regeneration.

Approaches have been made to these protesters, to explain to them that they are delaying work on the construction site and therefore delaying the construction programme and seven families from the estate moving in to their new homes, but these efforts have been to no avail.

We are therefore having to take legal action to obtain a possession order in order to regain control of the site. Depending upon how long the legal action takes, and when we can re-book the contractors and the services companies, will determine the overall delay to the project, but anticipate that this delay will be at least three months.

If you have any queries with regards to the protest please call Alberta Matin at Countryside on: 01277 697 164 or email alberta.matin@cpplc.com

CONTACT *details*

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Barnet Homes

Tel: 020 8359 5405 / 5415

Email: talk2us@barnethomes.org

Residents and leaseholders can contact the Residents' Independent Advisor Tim Thurston at PPCR

Freephone Tel: 0800 317 066

Email: TThurston@ppcr.org.uk

