

## **Ekin Road Liaison Group Meeting – Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2024 5.30pm to 6.30pm**

### **Staff Attendees:**

Molly Savino (MS), Development Officer  
Sam Acklam (TS), Housing Officer  
Nikki Vasilaki (NV), Regeneration Officer

### **Councillor Attendees:**

Cllr Naomi Bennett (Cllr NB)  
Cllr Elliot Tong (Cllr ET)

### **Welcome (MS):**

The meeting was attended by approximately 8 residents.  
MS introduced staff and welcomed all.

### **Programme (MS):**

The existing resident engagement timeline was shared which sets out quarterly liaison group meetings, design workshop and a target planning application in January 2025, however it is now anticipated that the planning submission will be in March 2025.

### **Planning (MS):**

The planning process was discussed and the ways in which individuals can comment on a planning application:

- All planning applications are published on the online planning portal and will have a reference number
- Local households will receive a letter with the details
- You can 'support', 'object' or 'comment'
- You can track an application and receive updates
- Planning committee will happen, and a decision will take place

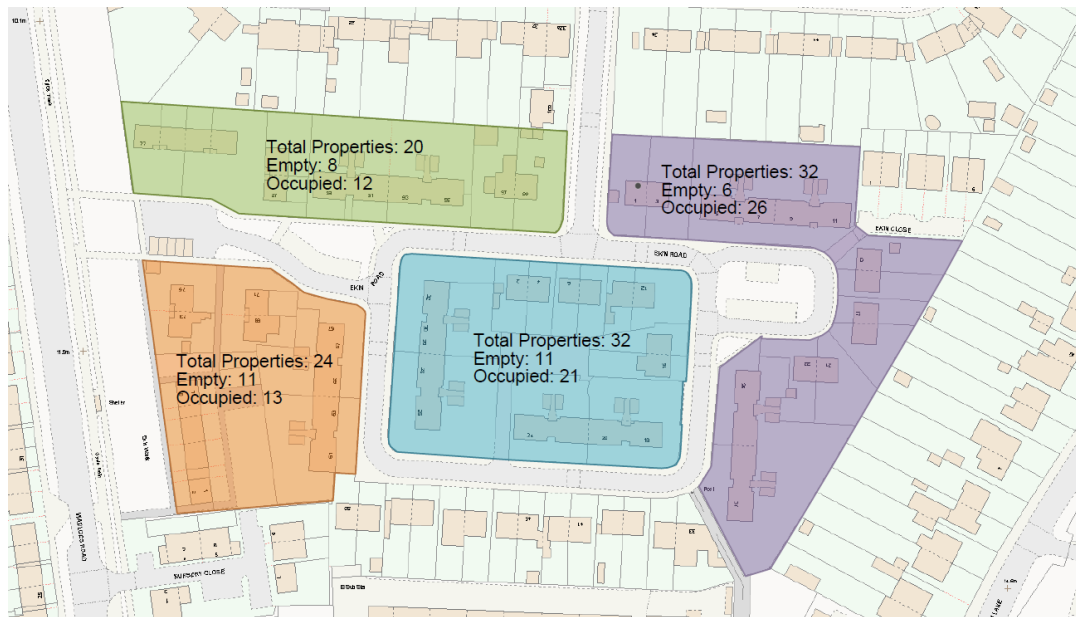
### **Workshop (MS):**

Public engagement took place in October and included an in-person workshop event at Barnwell Baptist Church and an online webinar. These were well attended and all feedback was shared with the design team to consider in the plans. Common themes from the feedback include:

- Communal gardens and planting bed desired in the new development
- How will the Council deal with the empty properties to avoid squatting?
- Wadloes Road is used for school run and this needs to be considered when planning deliveries to the construction site.
- Will there be a change to the road names and numbers?
- Concern about ebikes and scooters speeding on paths
- Impact onto the homes remaining on Ekin Road and Ekin Close
- Potential overlooking of existing properties from new properties
- Impact of parking on local roads
- Existing antisocial behaviour and drug dealing

### **Estate Management (MS):**

The following map shows the number of empty and occupied properties across the 4 areas of the estate:



There are a total of 36 empty properties currently on Ekin Road (as of 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2024). Each time a property becomes empty, the Council assess the condition of the property for Temporary Accommodation suitability. Many flats are in poor condition or have damp and mould so are unsuitable for a new let.

When properties remain empty, they may be hoarded up with steel panels for security. All residents are encouraged to report any signs of squatting, antisocial behaviour or vandalism.

Concerns have been raised that some repairs and estate management might not take place or are on hold. Management teams have not been instructed to hold essential repairs. Residents are encouraged to continue to report any issues with their homes or their estate.

A community day is scheduled to take place in January and all residents should now have a letter confirming the details. 4 skips will be available for residents moving from their homes. Recycling services will also be available, and volunteers will be on hand to help residents move large items.

### **Housing Officer Update (SA)**

A new housing officer assistant Georgia-Louise Amos has joined the team and will be meeting members of the community in the coming weeks including at the upcoming community day.

All residents with concerns about their personal circumstances are encouraged to make appointments with their housing officer or the regeneration team either at the resident's home, in the Council offices, on the phone or online to discuss their personal circumstances confidentially.

### **Questions (MS):**

Resident: Suggestion made to remove or store the bins of empty properties to reduce the numbers of bins on the street front.

Response: We will look into this with the refuse team.

Resident: Raised concern about priority given to another household incorrectly.

Response: NV and SA will take this away and look into this specific case. Residents are encouraged to discuss their personally circumstances in a private meeting or via email/ phone.

Resident: Requested a list of empty properties on the estate.

Response: This might not be appropriate to share with residents remaining on the estate but will be considered.

Resident: Enquired about the construction access and access for the residents remaining in the southern houses on Ekin Road.

Response: The construction access will likely be to the southwest of the site across the Wadloes Road verge. Details for resident access are still under review and a Traffic Management Plan will be included in the planning application. Residents impacted by the development will be supported by the Cambridge Investment Partnership and will be kept up to date.