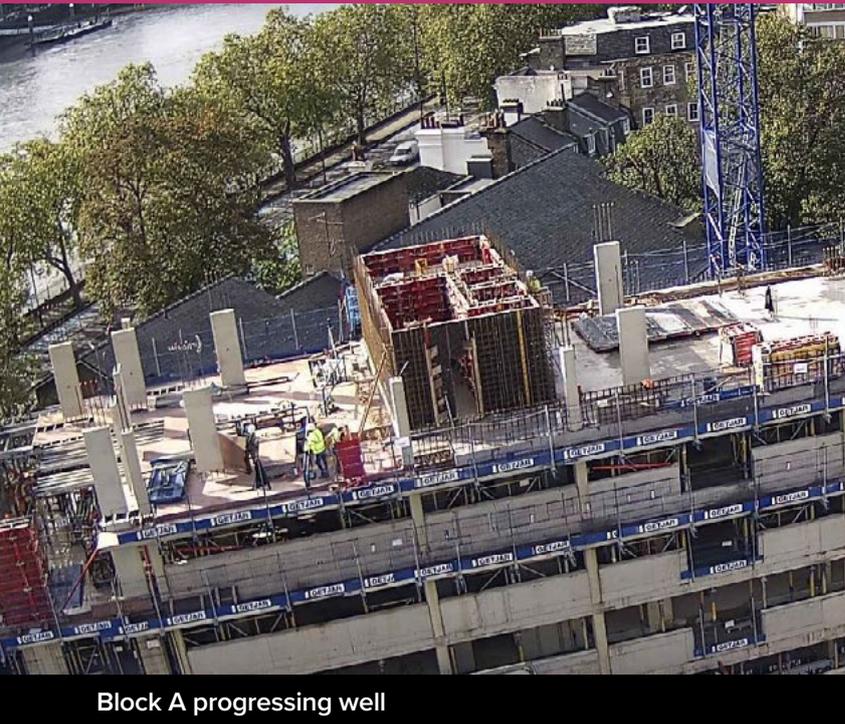


DARWIN HOUSE DEVELOPMENT NEWS

Bringing you the latest news from the neighbourhood of Darwin House

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Block A progressing well

RESIDENTS HAVE THEIR SAY IN NAMING BLOCK A

As we continue to progress with building the new homes, there has been a focus on naming the new building referred to as Block A, which will house all residents currently living within Darwin House.

On Friday 6 October, Darwin House residents participated in a focus group session with Ward Councillor, Liza Begum to discuss the name of the Block A. The session provided a great opportunity to discuss and review the shortlist of possible building names, as well as receiving and understanding residents' opinions and feedback. Since this project was in its infancy, it has been paramount to the council that residents participate in shaping their future homes, and the naming of block A is a process we wanted residents to lead on.

Following the session, a vote was held amongst Darwin House residents, and winning by a majority with 80% of the total vote, was Darwin House. We are delighted to formally announce the name of Block A as Darwin House and look to the future when this building will become the homes and enhance the lives of our residents.

LATEST FROM THE SITE

Since our last update in the summer, construction of Block A has progressed significantly.

- Framework continues to progress
- Decking and pouring of concrete to 1st, 2nd and 3rd floor is complete
- North elevation concrete pour to the 4th floor is underway
- Substructure brickwork has commenced
- Estimated completion for Block A is Winter 2024



A HALF-TERM HALLOWEEN HOORAH

On Thursday 26 October, the council, with our construction partner Wates brought a spooky spectacular to the Churchill Gardens estate.

Over 25 local children from the area came together to enjoy an afternoon of pumpkin carving, ghostly games, and sweet treats.

The event was made possible with the support of our contractor Wates, whose social value contribution allowed many children from the area to enjoy some frightening fun for free!



SECOND HOUSING SERVICE CENTRE OPENS TO SUPPORT RESIDENTS IN PIMLICO

A new housing service centre for residents to speak face-to-face with Westminster City Council housing staff has opened on Charlwood Street, Pimlico.

To mark the opening, the Leader of Westminster City Council, Cllr Adam Hug, and Cllr Liza Begum, Cabinet Member for Housing Services, attended a launch along with residents and residents' associations.

Those who attended had the chance to speak with councillors and housing staff to ask questions and understand the wide range of services offered by the new centre. The Charlwood Street centre marks Westminster Council's second office opening in a matter of months following the launch of the Queens Park service centre on the Mozart Estate in June.

Two further housing offices in Bayswater and Soho are being planned following feedback from residents who want housing officers to be closer to the community.



THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING THE CHILDREN'S BOOK PROJECT

As you may remember, at the beginning of the year a rather different looking letterbox appeared on the hoarding around the building site, the Children's Book Project came to Churchill gardens!

Over the past nine months we have collected 80 books which will be redistributed and donated to children and their families who face barriers in accessing stories. The Children's Book Project seeks to tackle book poverty and to give every child the opportunity to own their own book. The charity believes in empowering children to choose a book they are motivated to read and in the power of reading communities.

On behalf of Wates and the Children's Book project, **Thank YOU!**



WESTMINSTER RESIDENTS GET WORK EXPERIENCE WITH WATES

During half-term week, our construction contractor Wates provided five work experience placements to Westminster residents. Throughout the week-long placement, the students were introduced to construction where they had exclusive access to sites, talks from professionals and even had a day trip to Parliament where Wates are undertaking refurbishment works.

CONSTRUCTION LIAISON GROUP SITE WALK

At the end of Summer, the Construction Liaison Group (CLG) met under slightly different circumstances to participate in a tour of the building site where the new Darwin House is under construction.

The site walk allowed members to witness progress up close and personal, whilst getting their queries answered by the Westminster project lead and the Wates Resident Liaison Officer.

The CLG was established in 2021 to enable the Darwin House Development Team to provide updates on works throughout the project, and for members of the community to discuss any issues, concerns or matters that may arise.



ARE YOU INTERESTED IN JOINING THE CONSTRUCTION LIAISON GROUP?



The Construction Liaison Group has vacancies, and we are looking for new members to join the group.

The group acts as a sounding board for the residents of Churchill Gardens and surrounding streets and will remain so throughout the construction of new homes. Members of the group have the opportunity to raise questions or matters of concern and receive responses from Westminster Council and our construction partner, Wates.

CLG members commit to making themselves available to attend meetings, feeding back key information to wider residents as well as working collaboratively with council officers and other members. Discussions are intended to keep members informed of project progress and to acknowledge and mitigate construction impacts on the local community.

If you would like to get involved, please email the team at balmoraldarwin@westminster.gov.uk

CONTACT THE TEAM

Website

westminster.gov.uk/housing-renewal/darwin-house

Email

balmoraldarwin@westminster.gov.uk

Letters

Growth, Planning and Housing Development
Team, Level 13,
64 Victoria Street,
London SW1E 6QP

WESTMINSTER CONNECTS

Website

westminster.gov.uk/westminster-connects

Phone

020 7641 6000

