

Welcome

to the second issue of the Parkfield Newsletter.

This edition covers the first turf being cut at Parkfield on a very rainy Friday morning and more key dates between now and the end of December. There is also information on how to see the site taking shape, young people's involvement in the design and development of the Skate Park and an ecology update on the Slow Worm and Badger population at Parkfield.

The next update will be available in January 2011 when we will hopefully be able to show you the design of the Skate Park and an update on how the BMX track is taking shape.

We hope you find these updates of interest but if you have any questions regarding the development of Parkfield or would like further information please do not hesitate to contact the Project Manager Maggie Naylor. Maggie's contact details are 07817 033184 or e-mail parkfield@torbay.gov.uk

First Turf Cut at Parkfield



VIP guests braved the rain on Friday 1st October 2010 as the first turf was cut at Parkfield. Below is the article from the Herald Express that covered this event:

Torbay Mayor Nick Bye led the way in braving the downpours at the ceremony. When finished, the multi-million-pound project will include a world class BMX track and other facilities for young people.

Parkfield is expected to be completed in September 2011, although outdoor facilities completed before this date will be available as soon as they are built. Contractors Interserve have begun work at the Grade II listed building, which dates back to around 1830. Torbay Council was awarded more than £4.8 million from the Big Lottery earlier this year to develop the site into a youth 'hub' offering activities and support services for local young people and the 'activity holiday' market.

Facilities will include the BMX track, climbing walls, a skate park, a media suite and a sports hall and theatre. High quality accommodation will be developed to attract families from all over the UK and beyond. Mr Bye said: "This is a fantastic project and I'm really pleased to see work starting on Parkfield. This is a great opportunity to put Paignton on the map for world class facilities for young people. It will give young people more opportunities to enjoy positive and healthy activities. These are exciting times in Torbay and Parkfield is one of many regeneration projects taking place. I'd like to thank the Big Lottery and everyone else involved in this fantastic project." Interserve's South West director, Richard Ellis, said: "We are delighted to be working on this exciting project."

Key Dates

October 2010

- During early October Young people took part in a workshop which saw them learning about engineering and how Interserve prepares to build by levelling the site.
- Licence application granted from Natural England for the protection of the Badgers and Slow Worm's on site. The outcome is that the Slow Worms have now been moved into their own housing estate on the site and the Badgers are celebrating as the BMX track has been moved to ensure their sets are not disturbed!
- Foundations for the climbing wall have been placed.
- Lift pit and stair footings for the new building are being put in place.
- Oct/Nov 2010 – Young peoples skate board park design workshops taking place with Maverick, Skate Board Designers and Builders (see Young People's involvement article)

November 2010

- 2nd Nov 2010 - My Workshop will be open in Colin Road Car Park for community feedback on the site development. Maggie Naylor, Project Manager, will also be based there from this date.
- Structure steel work for the new building to be installed on site.
- BMX track to be built. This will take up to 12 weeks to complete.

Partnership Agreements

South Devon College and YMCA South Devon have signed Partnership Agreements with Torbay Council and the Big Lottery in order to achieve the funding outcomes of the project.

South Devon College will be offering workshops and college placements at Parkfield. YMCA South Devon will be delivering vocational education programmes.

Development work has started with these partnership agreements and will be continually developed when Parkfield is open.

Want to see how the site is developing?

Interserve and Torbay Council are currently working together to install a web cam on site that will feed onto Torbay Council's website so you can see the site developing in real time.

Interserve will also be taking photos from approximately 40 different points on the site on a weekly basis. These photos will be posted on the Parkfield pages of the Torbay Council website (www.torbay.gov.uk/parkfield).

The web cam feed and the photos will be available online during November.

Report from Ecologist

The Slow Worms on site have been taking up a lot of the Projects time. Initially we were told there was a small population but it recently became apparent that in excess of 270 Slow Worms have been captured and translocated from the Parkfield site working area so far. This took place during 30 reptile capture visits.

Because of this the creation of a reptile hibernacula has been created. Basically a hole in the ground, filled with various rubble, some bits of pipe etc, covered over with soil. On top of the soil lots of twigs have been placed. It actually looks like a mini bonfire. This is now their new residence for the foreseeable future. It has been placed in a conservation area and they have been co-located next to a 20 hole badger set and a 300 year old Oak tree.

But we hear you cry 'Badgers eat Slow Worms'! Badgers will eat anything but they are nocturnal and Slow Worms are day time creatures and it shouldn't be an issue, so the professionals tell us!

Young People's involvement



Young people are currently heavily involved in the development of the skate park element of Parkfield. As well as meeting with Maverick, the skate park designers; they have also been busy designing their own graphical fly through of how they would like it to look. They have also been busy picking out the materials they would like to see used in the building of the skate park.



The young people have been keen to ensure there is a balance of urban, plaza, transitional and street type skating. For those of you who don't understand the terminology this is what type of ramps, jumps, railings and steps are incorporated into the same design.



In the next edition of the Parkfield Newsletter we will be able to show you the final design that Maverick and the young people have come up.



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