

Blackbird Leys Newsletter

Spring 2026

Groundworks start on the new community centre

Teams from Peabody, Oxford City Council and Hill came together to mark the start of the groundworks of the new community centre.

The centre will offer flexible and welcoming spaces for residents and local groups, with three large halls, office space and places to meet and relax.

Thanks to everyone who gave their feedback and helped design the new space.

Around the centre, there'll be a new public square, with play areas for children and young people, a rain garden, accessible play equipment and public art.

Local people have been involved in helping create the final artwork.



New partnership to support young people of Blackbird Leys

We've partnered with RAW Workshop to support young people in Blackbird Leys.

The project aims to build confidence, resilience, teamwork, and emotional wellbeing - supporting stronger peer relationships, improved engagement in education, and helping young people move closer to future training and employment opportunities.

RAW will deliver a programme that includes employability sessions, mindset training, carpentry and multi-trades skills, life skills workshops and activities such as fishing trips and off-site experiences.



raw-workshop.co.uk



Construction update

Chestnut Tower, Pegasus Road

61 flats for social rent

We've progressed the parking areas, cycle lane and footpaths, alongside internal finishing and inspections. Next, we'll continue the external works and carry out decorating, flooring and electrical work inside.

Knights Road

84 houses for shared ownership

Work is moving well across all phases, including drainage, fencing, brickwork and fitting out the new homes. Drainage and finishing works will continue, with some homes nearing handover.

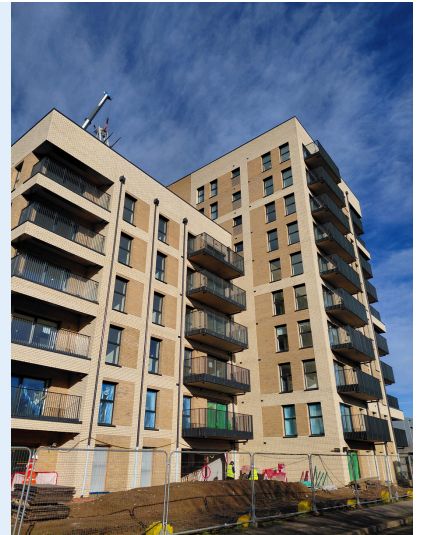
Cherry Tree Tower, Blackbird Leys Road

51 flats for social rent

Piling works are ongoing and the crane base is complete. The piling rig is due to leave site by the end of next week.

Highways and landscaping

We're well underway planting turf and trees with overall landscaping taking shape.



Free food parcels for Oxford residents

The Leys Food Initiative provides free food parcels to people living across Oxford, including low-income households, older people, refugees and others experiencing financial hardship.



Each week, volunteers distribute fresh fruit, vegetables and essential food items, helping people put meals on the table. The service also creates a welcoming space where residents can get together and find information about other help that's available.

Sycrox Food Bank - just come along

Thursday 10am to 12 noon

The Oxford Hub, Windale Primary School Windale Avenue, OX4 6JD

Sofea Community Larder - sign up to join

Monday 1pm to 3pm

The Barn, Nightingale Avenue, Blackbird Leys, Oxford, OX4 7BU

For membership details and to join, scan the QR code or visit sofea.uk.com/purpose-projects/community-larder/



Pride in Place funding

The government's Pride in Place Programme aims to bring together local communities to make decisions and changes to their area. In Oxford, Greater Leys, which includes parts of both Northfield Brook ward and Blackbird Leys ward, has been chosen by the government for the programme. Greater Leys will receive up to £20 million of funding and support over the next 10 years to make long-term improvements that residents want. The improvements will be chosen and managed by a Neighbourhood Board, which will be responsible for producing a 10 year plan and will be led by an independent chair.

Find out more about the programme, what it will mean for The Leys area, and how you can get involved - scan the QR code or visit:

oxford.gov.uk/building-projects/pride-place



Receive WhatsApp updates

Scan the QR code to receive weekly WhatsApp updates.



Contact us

For any queries about the redevelopment of Blackbird Leys, please contact Peabody:
joanne.hoy@peabody.org.uk
0300 123 3456

For any queries about construction, please contact Hill:
residents@hill.co.uk
0800 032 6700

Play Corridor– bringing colour and creativity to Leys Leisure Centre

Things are looking more colourful at the entrance of Leys Leisure Centre, thanks to a vibrant partnership between Active Oxfordshire, the local community, More Leisure and Oxford City Council.

During Active Oxfordshire's Active Neighbourhood Scan in the Leys, residents expressed a desire for a brighter, more welcoming entrance to their leisure centre.

In response, a creative chalking session was held in October last year, where local people came together to share ideas and sketch out their vision for the space.

The designs inspired by this session have been developed and new, colourful play corridor is now open at the leisure centre. This initiative is a fantastic example of community-led transformation, and we're thrilled to see residents shaping the future of their local spaces.



Kids Activity Zone at Leys Leisure Centre

Looking for a place where kids can climb, play and celebrate in style? The Active Zone at Leys Leisure Centre is packed with exciting features including:

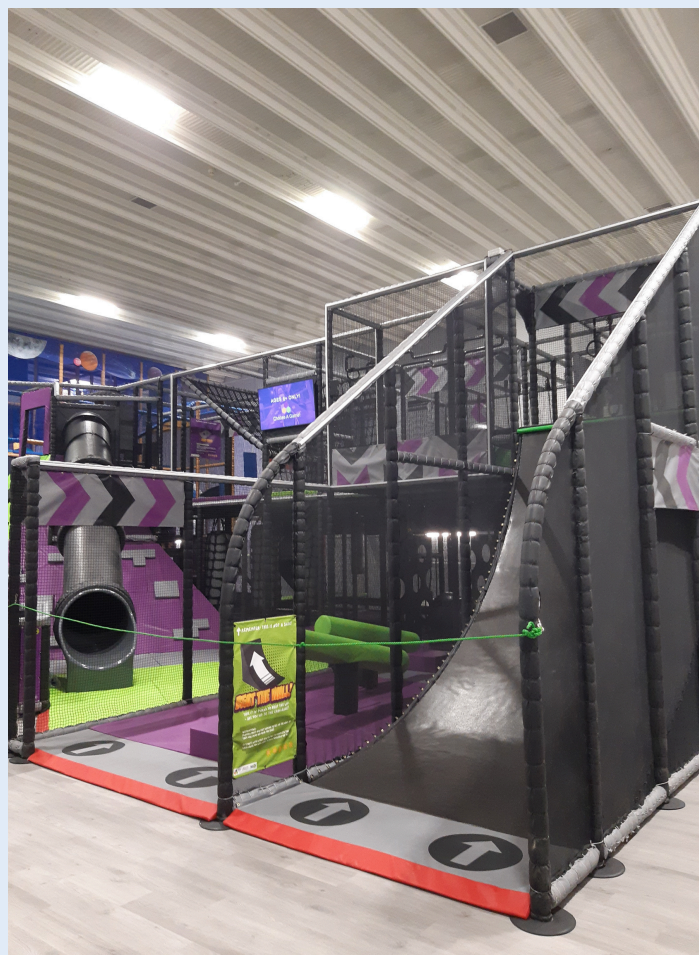
- Soft Play – a colourful, safe space for younger children to explore, crawl, and slide (under 8s). £5 per child. Under 1s go free. (Bonus/YouMove members £1 discount)
- Tag-X Arena – a high-energy, interactive game zone where kids can test their speed, agility, and teamwork (ages 8 and up). £7.50 per person. (Bonus/YouMove members £1 discount)
- Climbing Wall – a thrilling challenge for adventurers of all ages to scale new heights (age 5 and up). £9.75 per person.
- Spectators go free!

Parties

Parties start from £195 for 20 children, including food.

Get in touch

To book or for more information, scan the QR code or contact:
oxfordcityleisure.com
0330 109 8773



★ ALL WELCOME ★

Leys Lunch

A FREE HOT LUNCH FOR
THE LEYS COMMUNITY
TO BRING PEOPLE TOGETHER!



12:30 - 2PM

EVERY SECOND SATURDAY
OF THE MONTH

2025

8 NOV, 13 DEC

2026

10 JAN, 14 FEB,
14 MAR

THE
BARN

NIGHTINGALE AVENUE,
OX4 7BU

Bringing people together over food

Join us for

BREAKFAST AT THE BARN

A free Breakfast Club run
by the Leys community for
the Leys community.



When : Every Monday from 3rd November

Time : 8.30am - 10.30am

Venue : The Barn, Nightingale Avenue,
OX4 7BU



MORE

Sing **ALONG**

Join us for a sing-along session
for little ones to play, sing,
move and make new friends.
Suitable for all ages.

**TUESDAY
10.30AM-
11.30AM**

Speak to a member of our team, for more information.

let's do
MORE

MORE

STAY *and* **PLAY**

Enjoy stories, messy play,
songs, soft play adventures,
games and lots of fun!
Suitable for all ages.

**TUESDAY
& FRIDAY
9.30AM
-12PM**

Speak to a member of our team or head online to book.

let's do
MORE