

A SAFER KEYHAM...

Keeping our streets safe and strengthening the community

IMPROVING OUR AREA

The streets and green spaces of Keyham and the surrounding areas are becoming safer and more pleasant places to live, work and play.

Thanks to the good work of the Keyham

Community Policing Team, partners and the community recorded crime is down 12%, burglaries are down 41%, antisocial behaviour is down 27%, and stalking and harassment are down 19%. (As of March 2022)"

Residents have also noticed a marked improvement in the look and feel of the area thanks to the £308,000 Safer Keyham grant awarded by the Home Office specifically for crime prevention measures.

Over the past few months more than 70 new street lights have been installed and two state-of-the-art CCTV cameras have been purchased for deployment of three months at a time at different locations in the area.

There have also been numerous environmental improvements as part of the Keyham Greenspace Plan, which has seen new paths, the cutting back of overgrown trees and bushes and the creation of new orchards, hedgerows, trees and wildflower areas.

In addition, money has been spent on community training, youth engagement and funding projects to help the community through the Sparks grants.

This second edition of the Safer Keyham newsletter details some of this good work as well as the ongoing help and support available to residents as we approach the 12th month anniversary of what happened in our area.



NEED HELP OR SUPPORT?

The Plymouth Together website is a one-stop hub featuring a host of helpful websites and support agencies alongside news and events and an action plan for the area's recovery. Find out more at: www.plymouthtogether.co.uk

To get in touch email: plymouthtogether@plymouth.gov.uk or call 01752 668000 (option 0).

Face-to-face support is also available at the Community Hub, based at Keyham Green Places, 163 Renown Street, the Wolsley Community Hub in Wolsley Close, and the Jan Cutting Wellbeing Hub in Beacon Park Road.

Your local MP and councillors are also available to help with a range of issues:

Luke Pollard MP

luke.pollard.mp@parliament.uk
01752 717255

Devonport Ward

mark.coker@plymouth.gov.uk
07585 888047

charlotte.cree@plymouth.gov.uk

07890 059252

william.stevens@plymouth.gov.uk

07773 717826

Stoke Ward

tom.briars-delve@plymouth.gov.uk

sally.cresswell@plymouth.gov.uk

07890 059274

jemima.laing@plymouth.gov.uk
07876 367569

PLYMOUTH TOGETHER



KEYHAM REMEMBERS

The community will be coming together on Friday 12 August to remember those who lost their lives in the devastating event a year ago.

From 7pm a vigil will take place for the Keyham community in North Down Crescent Park. From the same time the wider Plymouth community can pay their respects by lighting candles near Smeaton's Tower on the Hoe.

It will follow a civic ceremony at 11am at St Andrew's Church in Royal Parade in the heart of the city. This event is invite only and guests will include the first responders on the scene.

Trained staff, including members of Victim Support, will be present at a number of community venues on Friday, 12 August and Saturday, 13 August to offer support to anyone who needs it. These venues will be listed on the Plymouth Together website.

From the Friday to the Sunday, appropriate artwork, designed by young people in Keyham, will be projected onto Smeaton's Tower and Theatre Royal Plymouth.

A permanent memorial to those who lost their lives is still under consideration.

If anyone has been affected by what happened in Keyham the Plymouth Together website features a large range of support and help options for adults, children and families. You can find out more at www.plymouthtogether.co.uk



Rebecca Van Der Veer and Emma Martin, Victim Support caseworkers for Keyham and the surrounding Plymouth areas

“We help people make sense of how a crime has made them think, feel and act. For some, it is just about being able to talk to someone about how they are doing, how they are dealing with things. We can also look at what coping mechanisms they are using, how those are working out for them and whether there are healthier ones which might be more helpful. We can't solve every problem but it's about giving that extra bit of support.

“People can refer themselves to us (see details below) or an agency like the police or a housing officer can do it for them, with their consent. We try to provide support in a way that makes everyone feel safe, which can include meeting up as well as using video or phone calls. It's good having two of us in the area which can make the experience feel more personal.

“We are here for anyone who has been affected by any crime, however long ago it happened or whether it was reported to police. We are really keen to hear from anyone who feels we may be able to help them.”

Victim Support's local team offers support to anyone over 18 years of age. Call them on 0300 303 0554 between 12 and 6pm weekdays.

To read a longer interview with Rebecca and Emma visit www.plymouthtogether.co.uk

BLOOMING PARK LIFE

New play equipment in two Keyham parks are the latest eye-catching additions to our green spaces.

The £30,000 worth of natural play equipment in Alexandra Park and North Down Crescent follows consultation with residents and was made possible by funding from the Home Office's Safer Keyham grant and Plymouth-based project Green Minds.

These striking improvements are part of the Keyham Greenspace Plan which aims to make the local green spaces safer, more welcoming and accessible and better for wildlife.

Green Minds is overseeing the plan and a host of green-initiatives encouraging residents of all ages to get their hands dirty including:

- The creation of a community orchard and hedgerow in Knowle Avenue along with vegetation cutbacks and a new path installation
- 'Mini-police' events with local schoolchildren involving wildflower seed sowing and daffodil planting
- Tree planting, expanding and enhancing wildlife meadow areas in Knowle Avenue, Marley Park, Alexandra Park and North Down Crescent and a new wildflower area sown in Alexandra Park.

These initiatives have taken place alongside the addition of numerous streetlights and upgrades along previously poorly lit pathways in our parks.

Residents have also played their part in co-designing plans for local green spaces by participating in a number of community workshops.

Organised by Green Minds and YGS (landscapes and environmental consultants) the results of these workshops will help inform the final greenspace designs to be shared over the summer.

Stay in touch and learn how you can play your part at www.plymouthtogether.co.uk/a-safer-keyham

Find out more about the Keyham Greenspace Plan at www.greenmindsplymouth.com

Green Minds is funded by ERDF Urban Innovative Actions.



PLYMOUTH TOGETHER FUND PASSES £100,000

A total of £101,088 has so far been raised by big-hearted individuals, groups and organisations for the Plymouth Together Fund.

The fund was set up to collect money raised for the families of those killed in the tragedy as well as those injured and the communities of Keyham and Ford.

Most of the money has now been distributed to the next of kin, those physically injured and wider family members, while decisions are being made on how best to spend the remainder for the good of the community.

The fund does not receive any government funding and none of the donated funds are used for administration. It is overseen by the Wolseley Trust which is a not-for-profit organisation and long-term trusted partner of Plymouth City Council.

The fund is still open and to find out how you can get involved please visit the Plymouth Together website.

RESIDENTS INVITED TO SHARE FEEDBACK

The University of Plymouth is completing some research in Keyham and Ford to see what community members think about the work the police and community safety teams have been doing in the area to make people feel safer since the tragic incident of 12 August 2021. The research is taking a trauma-informed approach, which means it will be carried out in a way that is careful and sensitive.

Over the next few months, the evaluation team will be conducting interviews and focus groups with local agencies and community members, workshop focus groups with young people, and an online survey of community members. Feedback is welcome whether you have heard about the Recovery Programme or not.

If you are interested in taking part, or if you would like more information about the research, email keyhamevaluation@plymouth.ac.uk

SUPPORT FOR OUR YOUNG PEOPLE

Young Devon is now offering free one-to-one sessions for any young person affected by what happened last August.

The charity is one of a number of groups and agencies, including Jeremiah's Journey, Kooth, Livewell Southwest, the Wolseley Trust and Keyham Green Places, offering help and support for youngsters.

Young Devon assists 11 to 25-year-olds across the area and already offers a counselling service, but the one-to-one sessions are a new project overseen by Megan Bloomfield.

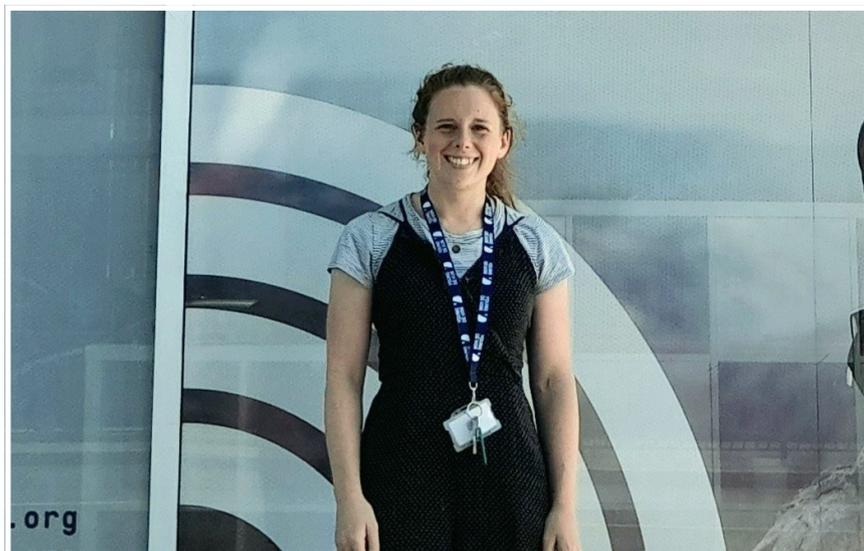
"These are for any young person who maybe haven't had the support they've wanted yet, or for some reason might have missed out, or are only just realising they've been affected," said Megan. "And they are for any young person living in Keyham or beyond who feels they've been impacted by what happened last year."

Megan explained the service could take the form of a space for young people to talk to her about their experiences, with Megan providing a friendly, impartial ear. If the person is experiencing panic and anxiety, she might then work with them on coping strategies to help them feel better and, if needed, she can also signpost to other services such as counselling.

"And the amount of sessions is up to the young person," she said. "They can also decide where we meet - whether over the phone or in person, at home or in the community. It's about putting them first. And there will be scope if young people or a school wish to work together in a group. It's really flexible."

To get in touch with Megan call 07593 529 917 or email Megan.Bloomfield@youngdevon.org

For a comprehensive list of the support and help available for youngsters visit: www.plymouthtogether.co.uk/support-for-children-and-families



WHAT'S ON

There is plenty for young people to do in Keyham and the surrounding areas over the summer holidays.

Besides the various youth and sports clubs - as listed on the Plymouth Together website - there are a number of free programmes and events including:

- **The Fit and Fed Holiday Club Programme** which supports families with children who receive benefit-related free school meals. There are fun activities taking place at holiday clubs in venues throughout Keyham, Ford and the local area until the start of September
- **Wellbeing Warriors** returns on Tuesday, 16 August. This safe space for 7 to 13-year-olds explores wellbeing using yoga, mindfulness, craft, games and nature. £1.50 a session and takes place at Keyham Green Places on Tuesdays - 4.30pm to 6pm
- **Premier League Kicks** every Wednesday in the school holidays. Free football sessions hosted by Argyle Community Trust from 5.30pm to 6.30pm at Keyham Green Places (8 to 12-year-olds) and from 6.30pm to 7.30pm at 67 North Down Crescent, Marley Park MUGA (13-year-olds and over)
- **Free Parkour sessions** will also be taking place at North Down Crescent Park on Mondays from 4pm to 5pm
- **Wolseley Trust's Annual Community Fete** - Saturday, 17 September at the Jan Cutting Healthy Living Centre in the Scott Business Park. This year's event will be carnival-themed and there will be live music, stalls, a fancy dress competition and a bbq.

To find out more about the above, or see more activities for the summer holidays, visit www.plymouthtogether.co.uk/whats-on-for-youngsters/