

CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

RESIDENTS' NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 14 SEPTEMBER 2021

Dear Neighbours

Welcome to the latest newsletter detailing the construction progress at Preston Barracks and The Big Build - the University of Brighton's Moulsecomb campus (made up of the Watts car park and Mithras car park sites). These updates will keep you informed on our progress as well as letting you know how to get in touch with us. We also have dedicated websites, where you can find out the most recent news on our noticeboard, and an overview of the entire development.

PRESTON BARRACKS **PRESTONBARRACKSCONSTRUCTION.COM**

This development is delivering new homes, including affordable housing, and student accommodation in managed halls of residence, meeting a widely recognised shortfall in the city. This scheme includes:

- The Plus X Innovation Hub, now open
- Student accommodation (555 rooms)
- Residential buildings (369 homes)
- A new 1,000 sqm medical centre and pharmacy
- A new street with retail & workshop units
- Public areas and green spaces
- A 1km running and fitness route
- Improved access through the site and local area

PRESTON BARRACKS - LATEST NEWS

The Plus X Innovation Hub is now open and fully operational. Tours of the building can be booked directly with the Plus X team www.plusx.space/locations/brighton

The student accommodation at Preston Barracks is now complete and students have moved in. The landscaping around the student accommodation is substantially complete and the additional five BTN BikeShare stands are now operational.

The residential buildings have progressed well, and the first two buildings will open to residents later this year. External façade and internal fitout works continue to the remainder of the buildings, which are on target to complete during the course of next year.

Works to the final building on Lewes Road began in January 2021. The concrete frame works have commenced and the frame is now visible above the hoarding.

THE BIG BUILD **BRIGHTON.AC.UK/THEBIGBUILD**

The Big Build is the name we have given to a major project to upgrade facilities at our Moulsecomb campus. The development is helping to reduce pressure on local housing and will contribute to improved amenities in the area. This scheme includes:

- New halls of residence for 800 students
- New Students' Union and fitness facilities
- A new academic building
- A new bike and car parking facility
- New green social spaces
- A new pedestrian bridge linking both sides of the campus across Lewes Road

THE BIG BUILD - LATEST NEWS

As we approach the beginning of the University's autumn term, construction on two key elements of the Big Build is reaching a conclusion.

The University's new academic building Elm House which sits on the east side of the Lewes Road is now complete and lead contractor Gilbert Ash have handed the building over to the University for final checks ahead of its first use at the start of the autumn term.

The new building will provide a state-of-the-art home for the University's School of Business and Law as well as modern, flexible teaching spaces for other Schools on the campus. It is also designed to provide public exhibition and events spaces and will be a hub for collaborative projects with local businesses.

Some landscaping works including the creation of a new pedestrian square between the Preston Barracks site and Elm House are continuing, with completion expected by the end of September. Some seasonal planting will follow later.

OPTIVO HOMES

Optivo, one of the largest housing providers in the UK, has taken over the southern construction site at Preston Barracks to build 369 new homes; a mix of affordable rent, shared ownership and open market homes, including studio, 1, 2 and 3-bed apartments and 3-bed Triplexes.

The open market sale homes are available with Help to Buy, and the shared ownership homes can only be bought by buyers who can prove it will be their sole property. Find out more at www.home-x.co.uk

New pedestrian access from Saunders Park View through the site will offer more convenient access to Lewes Road and Moulsecomb Station, and to the street level facilities at Preston Barracks, such as shops and cafes.

The first two buildings to be completed and occupied later this year will be the Triplexes on Saunders Park View.

LEWES ROAD BRIDGE - A NEW LANDMARK

Work on the new accessible pedestrian bridge linking both sides of Lewes Road is progressing well with foundation work now underway. Adjacent to Natal Road, this bridge will create an exciting new landmark at the north eastern entrance to the city, and provide a safe link between local communities, the University of Brighton's sites, and Preston Barracks. Completion is expected in early 2022.

THE BIG BUILD

The University's new student halls adjacent to Mithras House are also nearing completion with work expected to conclude in time for the arrival of first-year students during September. The five landmark towers will include circa 800 student bedrooms, helping to ease pressure on local housing.

Work on new fitness and Students' Union facilities which will sit in plinths beneath the halls is still expected to start following the conclusion of construction on the main halls accommodation. Once completed, the University's new fitness facilities will also provide some public access.

Below: entrance to the new academic building, Elm House



ROADWORK UPDATE

Our roadworks contractor Edburton has been granted permission by Brighton & Hove City Council to undertake the final part of the works from 20th September; these works will involve resurfacing part of the Lewes Road, and final commissioning of the traffic lights. The works will continue until the middle of November 2021. Enquiries regarding these roadworks should be addressed to hello@prestonbarracksconstruction.com

The roadworks on Saunders Park View have been completed and the parking opened for permit holder use; these parking arrangements are currently being finalised with the Council.

We continue to liaise with Brighton & Hove City Council, the bus company, and other local stakeholders regarding the phasing of the works and the impact on road users.

RESIDENTS' MEETING - NEW DATE

With restrictions lifted, we are able to welcome you again to our regular residents' drop-in meetings, where representatives of U+I, the University of Brighton and our construction contractors will be present to answer your questions on all aspects of the development.

Next meeting:

**Tuesday 21st September 2021 6pm-7pm
at Plus X, Lewes Road, Brighton BN2 4GL**

CONTACT US

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