

# CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

RESIDENTS' NEWSLETTER ISSUE 15 JANUARY 2022

Dear Neighbours

Welcome to the latest newsletter detailing the construction progress at Preston Barracks and The Big Build - the University of Brighton's Moulsecoomb 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](http://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](http://www.plusx.space/locations/brighton)

The student accommodation buildings and landscaping at Preston Barracks is now complete and students have moved in. Five additional BTN BikeShare stands are now operational, bringing the total to ten.

The residential buildings have progressed well, and the first two buildings will open to residents in early 2022. External façade and internal fitout works continue to the remainder of the buildings, which are on target to complete later this year.

Works to the final residential building on Lewes Road began in January 2021; concrete frame works have commenced and the frame continues, with the façade due to commence shortly. It is anticipated that this building will be completed in late 2022.

## THE BIG BUILD [BRIGHTON.AC.UK/THEBIGBUILD](http://BRIGHTON.AC.UK/THEBIGBUILD)

The Big Build is the name we have given to a major project to upgrade facilities at our Moulsecoomb 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

The University's five student accommodation blocks on the east side of Lewes Road are now complete and students moved in successfully at the beginning of the academic year in September 2021.

Further landscaping will take place on the tiered steps between towers 2 and 3 in quarter one which will bring public realm work in that area to a conclusion.

On the west side of Lewes Road, final landscaping works have been completed at the University's new academic building, Elm House, with the creation of a new pedestrian square to the south of the building.

# LEWES ROAD BRIDGE INSTALLATION WORKS

Work is expected to take place shortly to install a new accessible pedestrian bridge linking the east and west sides of Lewes Road.

Once completed, the bridge will provide a much improved connection between Natal Road and the new pedestrian square outside Elm House. A lift will provide step-free access to the raised, western end of the bridge deck for those unable to use the stairs.

The bridge will be open for student, staff and public use providing a fast, easy, and safe route across the busy Lewes Road.

These are significant works involving heavy machinery and it will be noisy at times. Care is being taken to plan the works to keep that noise and any related disruption to a minimum.

Further information including maps outlining diversion routes will be made available ahead of the works at [www.brighton.ac.uk/bigbuild](http://www.brighton.ac.uk/bigbuild)

The main installation work will take place in the following phases:

## SATURDAY 22 - SUNDAY 23 JANUARY 2022

- Work to construct the staircase on the west side of the bridge site (daytime working).
- A lane closure and 'contraflow' system will be in place on Lewes Road during this time.

## FRIDAY 28 - MONDAY 31 JANUARY 2022

- Work to lift the main structure of the bridge into place (continuous working from late on Friday 28 January to early morning Monday 31 January).
- A full closure of Lewes Road will be in place at the site of the bridge installation during this time.

## 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.

Optivo are providing 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](http://www.home-x.co.uk)

## ROADWORK UPDATE

Our roadworks contractor Edburton has been granted permission by Brighton & Hove City Council to undertake the final part of the works once the bridge installation has completed; these works will involve resurfacing part of Lewes Road, and final commissioning of the traffic lights. We anticipate these works being complete by the end of March 2022 at the latest.

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' MEETINGS

Due to current concerns around COVID-19 and the Omicron variant, we will not be holding a residents' drop-in meeting until further notice. We will inform residents of the next meeting date by letter drop, and via our website noticeboard at [www.prestonbarracksconstruction.com/noticeboard](http://www.prestonbarracksconstruction.com/noticeboard)

If you have any questions please contact us, as details provided opposite.

## CONTACT US

### PRESTON BARRACKS

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### THE BIG BUILD

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