

# Ecology news

## Nature's bloomed in Bishopton this spring

In our June 2016 newsletter, we featured the ringed plover – just one of the species nesting at our site. The species, which has been steadily declining for many years across the UK, has a Royal Society for the Protection of Birds red conservation status, meaning it's the highest conservation priority. That's why we were delighted that our team of ecologists observed another increase in nesting pairs this year with 14 nesting pairs being spotted – a record number for the site.

Nearing the end of spring our ecologists spotted two new species of wading bird nesting on site. For the first time, the oystercatcher and the lapwing have been recorded nesting around Bishopton. Our ecologists observed five pairs of lapwings, also known more commonly as the peewit. The lapwing is a rare species and it is expected that this number is likely to account for most of the lapwing nesting pairs in Renfrewshire.



Lapwing nests spotted in Dargavel Village for the first time

## An early start for dragonflies

During late spring, the sporadic days of warm weather saw Bishopton come alive with dragonflies and their delicate insect relatives; damselflies. The flying families are out in the woodland areas earlier than usual and were spotted by our team of ecologists who are continuing to observe the insects.



# Other news

## Then and now

Over the past year, we have made significant progress on the development including the opening of Craigton Drive, upgrading the park and ride area, installation of two new play areas and the completion of a number of landscaping works. We are continuing to see progress being made across the site as we transform the former Royal Ordnance Factory into an aspirational place for people to live, work and enjoy open, community areas.



View over the park and ride area, August 2016



View over the park and ride area, May 2017

## Have your say

### Contact us anytime

We are keen to hear your views on the Dargavel Village development. Send your thoughts to us at: Georgetown Reception Centre, Houston Road, Houston PA6 7BG  
T: 0800 130 3302  
W: [www.baesystems.com/bishopton](http://www.baesystems.com/bishopton)



## Bishopton regeneration

# Update

Edition 7: summer 2017



### Welcome to the summer issue of our newsletter.

Over the spring months, we made huge strides on the landscaping works for this year and saw the M8 junction start to take shape. The landscaping of Birch Road was completed at the end of March, marking the end of the improvement works to that area, and we opened two new play areas at Newton Road and Wester Rossland Woodland featuring swings, slides and climbing frames for the children in the community to use and enjoy.

In the last issue, we outlined the key elements of our proposal to reshape the development, following the public exhibition we held in December 2016. The feedback we received at the public exhibition and through the Community Liaison Group included overwhelming support for the early delivery of a primary school, and early access to the Community Woodland Park and Central Park. We have now submitted our planning application to Renfrewshire Council and await the outcome of their consultations and reviews.

The summer is always an exciting time of the year as nature flourishes in and around the site. Protecting and encouraging Dargavel Village's thriving wildlife and nature remains a priority for us as we continue with the development. Alongside our resident badgers, birds and bats, our eagle-eyed ecologists have recorded a couple of other significant sightings this summer which we feature in this issue.

Thank you for your continued support.

Jon Gettinby



# Development news

## Preparing the foundations for new M8 junction

**At the start of the year, we began work on the new M8 junction. Once complete, it will improve the local transport links and connectivity to the wider region.**

This spring we have completed the removal of over 3,000 tonnes of topsoil – equivalent to the weight of around 500 elephants – which will be reused for landscaping the final embankments.

In addition, we have progressed the local surface water engineering works including the installation of surface water ditches, drains and sustainable urban drainage ponds. These will prevent the site becoming waterlogged both during and after the completion of the construction works.

Our engineers have laid around 20,000m<sup>3</sup> of stone to form the base of the embankments, which is starting to define the final shape of the junction.

During the summer months we will continue to install drainage including a thrust bore under the current M8 motorway. This method involves the drainage pipes being pushed from one side to the other, which mitigates the need for lane closures and associated disruption. Following the drainage works we will continue to form the embankments to support the new junction.

In order to ensure the health, safety and welfare of the public we have implemented a temporary speed restriction of 30mph on a stretch of the A8 between the Barrangary and Red Smiddy roundabouts. This will remain in place for the duration of the works.



Work continues to progress at M8 junction site

## Supporting a thriving community

Creating open, green spaces and investing in community facilities are central to our development plans to support the future of Dargavel Village's growing community and its integration with Bishopton village.

At the end of March, we opened two new play areas at Newton Road and Wester Rossland Woodland featuring swings, slides and climbing frames. Our new masterplan for Dargavel Village continues to recognise the importance of public amenity areas and we plan to accelerate the delivery of the first stages of the Community Woodland Park and Central Park.



Newton Road play area

## Improvements on the ground

The final stages of landscaping works for 2017 have progressed well over the spring months. Strawberry Lane, the link path which runs south from the station car park towards Barrangary Farm, and Craigton Park, the open park land surrounding the Persimmon and Taylor Wimpey developments in the south of the village are due for completion this summer. Once open for public use the new path will provide extensive new recreational routes for the local community. Later this year further work will be done to enhance Craigton Park including planting trees to landscape the area.

# Planning news

## Planning applications for new masterplan submitted

**The original strategy for Dargavel Village was established over a decade ago, which is why in May, we submitted planning applications to re-shape the development.**

Our proposed plans have been influenced by the feedback from the community and focus on bringing amenities forward to support the growing community as well as using the development to reduce the need to use other local greenfield sites for the delivery of more homes.

Our plans include:

- Delivery of a larger, two-stream primary school in Dargavel Village earlier than originally planned
- Accelerating the landscaping, delivery and public access to open, green, play parks and community spaces, including the first stages of the Community Woodland Park and Central Park
- Introducing the retail development earlier than planned
- Improving pedestrian, cycle and public transport links around Dargavel Village with the addition of another phase of park and ride, direct links to the countryside from the village, and the provision of bus routes in the area.

As the new masterplan develops through the planning application stage, community feedback remains important to us. Renfrewshire Council will be carrying out a statutory consultation on the new planning applications, but you can also raise your views through your Community Liaison Group representative whose details can be found on the Bishopton Community Council website:

[www.bishoptoncouncil.com](http://www.bishoptoncouncil.com)

