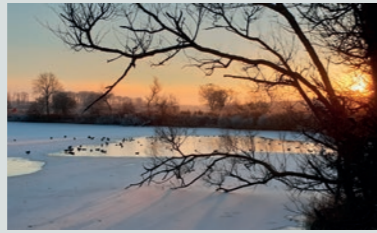


# Ecology news

## More feathered friends arrive at ponds

Dargavel Village is a great haven for waterfowl. That was clear again during the winter, when a large pool at one of the ponds remained ice-free.



A fascinating assembly of birds decided to take up residence for the duration. That included 28 moorhens, which was a record number reported for this species on site. Our feathered friends who frequent the ponds are quickly getting used to having a new village on their doorstep. Their numbers haven't changed since nearby houses were completed; in fact, new species are still being attracted. The latest to make a welcome appearance is a male pintail. It's a scarce but beautiful duck that comes from the same family as the mallard, which is common around Britain.

Our new pintail was first spotted before the turn of the year and he's been seen a few times since. Here's hoping he sticks around. Meanwhile, bear in mind that you can get good views of the birds from the brand new viewing platforms. But always remember – it's best to be quiet and observant.

## Landscaping will provide valuable links

A new phase of landscaping work started in the area north of the development at the start of the year. This extensive work will include creating woodland paths and wildlife areas, tree planting, and renewing and repairing existing hedgerows as well as creating another viewing point.



When it's completed in late spring, we will have created more than 8km of new paths and cycle ways and enabled access to over 200 acres of new public amenity, bringing forward early access to areas of Dargavel Country Park and providing valuable links to the wider countryside towards Formakin Estate and Whitemoss Dam.

## Get close to nature with new platforms

The local ponds are a vital part of the community and it's essential that people have good access to them. In a recent move, we've created new viewing platforms on the ponds. They not only give great vantage points but also help keep the precious wildlife protected. Everyone recognises that the edge of the ponds are sensitive areas from an environmental point of view.



People are more ready to protect these vital natural assets when they have the chance to get up close to appreciate their special qualities. The platforms provide access in the best – and safest – way, allowing people to get great views, but we do ask everyone to take care around the ponds and when using these platforms.

# Other news

## Boxing clever

Now that spring is in the air, there's a busy time ahead for our ecology team.

Among other things they will be replacing some of the barn owl boxes and relocating others to support the next phase of site redevelopment.



## High praise for Bishopton

We are delighted to reveal that we have been recognised for operational excellence. The praise has come after we were audited by the Considerate Constructors Scheme and the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA). In both cases, we received certificates for our performance.

### Excellent

The Considerate Constructors Scheme monitors our work and checks out how we are doing every year. In the latest assessment we achieved our highest score yet. It means that for the fifth year running, we are at the forefront of considerate construction in the UK. The impressive results show we were rated 'excellent' for care of site appearance, site safety and value of workforce, and 'exceptional' in respect of the community and protection of the environment. The auditors said: "Overall, the site has performed very well and way beyond compliance."

Among other things the auditors highlighted was the monument we unveiled in November 2018 to commemorate the site's historical significance. They said it was a great example of our support for the community.

We were praised for our innovative use of recycling. In particular, they highlighted the barn owl nesting tower which we built in 2018 using materials recycled from the site.

### Regulator enthusiasm

Meanwhile, SEPA, the country's main environmental regulator, inspected our landfill and praised the high standards maintained, before awarding us excellent status. Their report said: "The site was tidy and appeared to be well-run and in accordance with the pollution, prevention and control permit. Staff displayed enthusiasm and willingness to fully cooperate with SEPA."

## 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)



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## Bishopton regeneration

# Update

Spring 2019



### Welcome to the spring issue of the newsletter.

At long last, spring has sprung and we're all able to look forward to warmer days and – hopefully – more sunshine.

This time of year invariably makes everyone feel positive and the great news at Bishopton is that we're continuing to make good progress on the development with the delivery of a number of key projects in the near future.

You will have noticed that our contractors have started on phase two of the M8 junction construction. We remain on track to complete the new M8 junction on time and we're on schedule to open the junction next spring. This junction will significantly improve access and connectivity for the local community.

No community is complete without the right facilities and I'm pleased to report that the retail area in the village centre is now taking shape. The contractors have started construction on the new Sainsbury's store and the other five retail units, with the new shops due to be open in late summer. Also, the construction works for the new primary school and associated infrastructure is currently out to tender, with construction due to start next spring.

Creating a healthy environment is a key element of our project and with the completion of the current phase of landscaping works in late spring, we will have created more than 8km of new paths and cycle ways and enabled access to more than 200 acres of new public amenity.

We are looking forward to opening of these new areas and facilities in the coming months, and to making further progress on the next phases of the development.

  
Jon Gettinby

# Development news



## All go for new school

Positive news for local parents and children – it's all systems go for the new primary school that's being created in Dargavel Village as part of the development.

We've worked closely with Renfrewshire Council to develop the design of the school and planning permission was granted earlier this year. There are some very exciting features planned, including a roof terrace, nature trail, activity trail, all weather pitch, and fitness/teaching area.

After assessing the potential intake, it's been decided that the school will have two classes for each age group from P1 right through to P7. This means that when it's fully occupied, it will have room for up to 440 pupils.

Meanwhile, we've now issued the tender for companies to build the school and we expect to award the construction contract in September.

That's a significant time for the project since work to create the access road to the school will also start in September.

After the contract has been awarded the main building work on the school itself will begin in April 2020.

The current timetable means the building and grounds will be handed over to Renfrewshire Council in June 2021, and the first intake of pupils will start in their brand new school that same summer.



## Shopping area takes shape

Every community needs great facilities, in particular a good selection of local shops.

We're delighted to report that the retail area at the village centre is really taking shape.

We've completed the foundations and ground works that were needed to get things under way and now the steel works are being installed.

Work is on schedule to be completed in August, when the new Sainsbury's store is due to open.

Also, all the other retail units have now been let, and we'll be announcing who will be occupying these in the next newsletter.

At the same time as the first shops open their doors, there will be another major development. Renfrewshire Council's affordable housing project, which will provide 80 homes for rent, is due to be completed. The complex will see a mix of houses and flats across the two areas being developed by its appointed contractor Lovell.

## M8 junction gets motoring

Construction of the M8 junction is motoring again.

This final stage of the project will see the creation of two new roundabouts, realignment of the A8 Greenock Road, and construction of the slip roads to connect on to the existing carriageway.

Safety of those living and working in the area is a priority, and to make sure workers and drivers stay safe, there's a 30mph speed limit in force along the A8 (Greenock Road) between Barrangary roundabout and the Red Smiddy roundabout. This will continue until the end of 2019, with this section being closed for three weeks in July to complete the new alignment. This is an important part of the development and it will help make sure the overall project is completed in good time.

We know this may cause some delays to journeys and we are working closely with Renfrewshire Council, Transport Scotland and our contractors to minimise the disruption. The exact timings of the closure are being finalised, and these will be published in advance in our monthly bulletin which is available on the village noticeboard and on our website.

The junction remains on target to open in spring 2020.