

# Brighter Futures

INVESTMENT FOR YOUR AREA

Areas of Milkstone & Deepdish and the Oldham Road Corridor and Canal Basin

## Progress to report for Brighter Futures

Welcome to our second Brighter Futures newsletter.

We are happy to report that good progress is being made in your area. Since our last newsletter, we have been busy working on a number of projects to help improve the neighbourhood. Using funding from the Housing Market Renewal Pathfinder programme and the North West Development Agency, we have bought sites which will be developed in the future to create new homes and jobs.

We have recently received money to carry out environmental improvement works along the Oldham Road corridor to help to improve the appearance of the area. We are also renovating homes across the area, with funding from Rochdale Council and Housing Market Renewal.

We would like to thank everyone who took part in our consultation events last year. Your



contributions were invaluable and will help guide our future work.

We hope that you find this newsletter helpful. If you would like to find out more about the Brighter Futures project, please do not hesitate to contact a member of the team on **01706 837444** or email **brighter-futures@investinrochdale.co.uk**

Brighter Futures Team

### Inside this issue!



Mill gives way to march of progress



Get your heritage guide today!



Revamp lifts the neighbourhood



Preparing plans for your area

## Mill gives way to march of progress

**Demolishing a disused mill on Oldham Road has paved the way for future development of a high profile site.**

Grove Mill had fallen into severe disrepair over the years, but has now been demolished and the site landscaped by Groundwork.

This temporary landscaping work, at the junction with Durham Street, is part of the Brighter Futures proposal for the Oldham Road area. Supported by North West Development Agency and Housing Market Renewal, we have begun to purchase sites in the Oldham Road area. Grove Mill is the first site we have cleared.

Duncan Cooper, Project Officer at Rochdale Development Agency, said, "We're looking at areas along the Oldham Road corridor and the canal that we can improve ahead of creating detailed development plans for the area. The Brighter Futures proposals will take a number of years to bring to fruition, however we think it is important that we can carry out work wherever possible to make the area more attractive and to prime it for future development."

Mark Hughes from the NWDA said, "With the economy as it is, it's important to get sites ready for future development when the market picks up. The site is on an important corridor for Rochdale. This work is not only encouraging private sector development, but will also create a better natural environment for local people."

The team from Groundwork has planted wildflowers, which will flourish in early summer, and has cleared the area of debris and cut back shrubs.

"ready for future development"

Win **£25** worth of high street vouchers!

The Brighter Futures team is giving two lucky readers the chance to win £25 of high street vouchers to spend in their favourite shops. All you need to do is suggest an idea for how your neighbourhood could be improved.

Along with your name and address, send your suggestion of no more than 100 words to

**Brighter Futures, Rochdale Development Agency, Lock 50 Business Centre, Oldham Road, Rochdale, OL16 5RD.**

You can also email - **brighter-futures@investinrochdale.co.uk**

All ideas received by the 31st August 2009 will be entered into a prize draw. Winners will be notified by the team.

## A big thank you

Last year you took the opportunity to get involved in developing and influencing the long-term plans for the Brighter Futures project by telling us your views on five themes - housing, employment, movement, environment and appearance.

The comments received have provided us with really useful information and helped us understand the issues that people would like to see addressed. We would like to thank everyone who got involved. The main issues raised at the events were:

### Housing

- The area would benefit from a better choice of houses.
- A wide range of new housing should be provided to meet the needs of local people.
- Improvements to existing housing should be a priority.

### Environment

- Litter is a major problem throughout the area.
- There is limited open space in the area for residents.

### Employment

- Unemployment is a major problem in the area.
- There is a lack of skills, training and job opportunities for local people.
- There is a need to attract new businesses to the area.



### Movement

- On-street parking on the narrow terraced streets is a major problem.
- Speeding traffic and on-street parking creates pedestrian safety problems.

### Appearance

- There are a number of derelict and run-down buildings and sites in the area.
- New buildings, such as the PCT health centre on Maclure Road, have improved the appearance of the area.

We are at an early stage in preparing plans for the area and you will have more opportunities in the future to get involved in the project. We will be asking for your views on detailed proposals as they emerge.



**This leaflet can be made available in alternative languages and formats.** Please contact Rochdale Development Agency on 01706 837444

ایہ لیفلٹ (معلوماتی پرچہ) دوسری زبانوں میں بھی مل سکتا ہے۔ اس کے لیے براہ مہربانی ٹیل فون نمبر **01706 837444** نمبر پر راجڈیل ڈیولپمنٹ ایجنسی سے رابطہ کریں۔

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## Heritage guide helps to explain area's history

A guide to the history of the Milkstone Road & Deeplish area is helping to highlight the area's past and shape redevelopment plans for its future.

The guide focuses on the 'built' heritage in neighbourhoods around Rochdale railway station, Oldham Road and the Rochdale Canal. It provides a map of the key features in the neighbourhood, uncovering some architectural gems, including the Curtain Theatre in Milkstone Road, Halfpenny Bridge, which crossed the former canal, Victorian mills and a 21st century mosque.

The guide explains how the area grew and was shaped by the arrival of the Rochdale Canal and the cross-Pennine railway through the town. It has been produced by the partnership behind the Brighter Futures project.

Rochdale Council's Lead Member for Regeneration, Councillor Mohammad Sharif said, "The guide will help local people get a better understanding of where they live and its fascinating history. They have an important role to play in shaping a thriving future, which is what the Brighter Futures project is looking to achieve."

### Get your copy!

Copies of the guide are free of charge and are available from Rochdale Development Agency, and Deeplish and Castlemere community centres. If you would like a copy of the guide, please contact the Brighter Futures Team on 01706 837444 or email: [brighter-futures@investinrochdale.co.uk](mailto:brighter-futures@investinrochdale.co.uk)



Project leader Gary Davies added, "Housing Market Renewal carried out an in-depth heritage study across the neighbourhood. It gave a chance for local people to share their memories of Milkstone Road and Deeplish, while looking to the future and the chance to transform the area."



## Revamp for homes lifts the neighbourhood

If you travel along some of the main roads around Milkstone and Deeplish you will not fail to have noticed that many houses have had something of a facelift.

From Maclure Road to Kent Street, Manchester Road to Tweedale Street, the Brighter Futures project has already improved more than 100

 The improvements carried out have really improved the appearance of our property and have helped make the area a better place to live 

homes. Specialist tradesmen have cleaned and repointed brickwork, repainted and installed new windows and doors. On many properties new boundary walls have been built, with attractive gates and railings.

Norman Force said, "Giving the houses a new lease of life is not only making them safer and more comfortable places to live, it is also lifting the look of the whole neighbourhood." He added, "We have focused on the major routes around the area. The work is encouraging residents to look after their homes and invest in them."

Mr Yousaf Mohammed of Kent Street, whose house has been improved said, "We are very

happy with the work which has taken place on our house. We never imagined that small changes made to the front of our house would make such a big impact. The improvements carried out have really improved the appearance of our property and have helped make the area a better place to live."

For more information about the housing refurbishment programme in the area please contact **Norman Force** on **01706 745110** or email [norman.force@rochdale.gov.uk](mailto:norman.force@rochdale.gov.uk)



Before



After

## Study shows promising future for Oldham Road

We recently carried out a study which looked at how funding could be used to improve the environment along Oldham Road. The road is a key corridor linking Rochdale Town Centre and Kingsway Business Park, passing through the area.



The study was prepared following feedback received from residents and businesses who raised concerns at consultation events about the appearance of the corridor.

We are currently considering a number of projects that could be undertaken to improve the corridor such as new landscaping, tree planting, street furniture and other public place improvements. The projects will help to improve the image and perception of the area.

The improvements will support future house building and new employment sites in the area, creating a pleasant appearance in advance of new developments. Detailed plans for the improvement projects will be prepared over the coming months and we hope that work on some schemes will commence later in the year.

## We're taking on the credit crunch

The Brighter Futures team is continuing to make good progress despite concerns about the downturn in the economy. We are committed to improving your area and that is why we are continuing to buy land in the area which we know will help us to transform your neighbourhood.

We are doing this to make sure that we have land ready to build on when the economy gets better. We know that developers and other potential investors are keen to work with us in your neighbourhood when the Brighter Futures project reaches that stage.

## Brighter Futures - who we are

Rochdale Development Agency, Rochdale Council, the Oldham Rochdale Housing Market Renewal Pathfinder and North West Development Agency are working together on a project which we hope will improve areas of Milkstone & Deeplish, the Oldham Road Corridor and the Canal Basin.

Brighter Futures is a long term project that will help to create a better place to live and work, with a choice of new homes and creating new sites for businesses. The project also involves improving the image and appearance of the area by carrying out improvements to the local environment.

Want to find out more?  
Visit [www.oldhamrochdalehmr.co.uk](http://www.oldhamrochdalehmr.co.uk)