

Cornerstone

Keeping you up to date with all the latest neighbourhood news



Here to help our customers

Welcome to our summer 2020 Cornerstone newsletter for Willow Park, bringing you up-to-date with all the latest news from our developments across the region. We know it's been a difficult few months, and we've been committed to ensuring our developments are safe and our communities are supported during the COVID-19 crisis. Read on to find out more about how we are making things safe, helping customers and supporting the local area.

We were the first UK homebuilder to stop construction on sites and close sales centres in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic and the lockdown restrictions. Construction has since restarted, with staff and subcontractors operating under a strict set of health and safety practices, and following government guidance, we started a phased approach to reopening our sales office and show homes across the region from Friday 22nd May.

Our developments including Bridleways and Castle Grange in Banbury, Great Western Park in Didcot and Thornbury Green in Eynsham are now open once more, along with newly-launched sites in Swindon and Brackley.

We have introduced new working guidelines for all sales offices and show homes, designed to protect the health and safety of our customers and employees. These include the installation of perspex screens and marker guides for social distancing. Show home viewings will be unaccompanied and only one family at a time will be able to view each home.

Our sales and customer service teams have been helping customers remotely through the lockdown period, and we are encouraging all of our customers to maintain contact digitally where possible.

Those wishing to visit developments should first call the sales team to book an appointment. You can find out more about our response to the COVID-19 crisis by visiting www.taylorwimpey.co.uk/why-choose-us/staying-safe-during-covid-19.

Danielle Heard, Sales and Marketing Director for Taylor Wimpey Oxfordshire, said: "Reopening our sales offices and show homes is a significant step for both staff and customers. We're not prepared to compromise on health and safety, which is why we are operating our sales offices on a strict appointment-only basis.

"The revised health and safety protocols and guidelines mean that we can operate safely, both on-site and in our sales offices and show homes. Our teams have really got behind the new safety measures and keep telling me how happy they are to be able to welcome customers to our developments once again. They are doing an amazing job and it's lovely to see some of the positive feedback that we have had from customers over the past few months."



Providing support to care homes across the region

We recently sent care packages and donations of personal protective equipment (PPE) to two care providers in Oxfordshire.

Our team procured a range of resources for The Order of St John's Care Trust and Home Instead Care. Both care companies have multiple branches across the region, and we were more than happy to help by providing face masks and gloves, along with care packages of jigsaws and games.

Patsy Just, at The Order of St John's Care Trust, said: "We'd like to thank Taylor Wimpey for their kind donation. PPE is essential to maintain the health, safety and wellbeing of our residents and employees in our homes and we always ensure we have plenty of stock available for distribution. We use around 65,000 aprons a week in our Oxfordshire homes alone so this

donation certainly boosted our stock levels."

Tracey Morley at Home Instead Care, said "Thank you to Taylor Wimpey for their PPE donation. We were also delighted to receive a huge range of puzzles, games and DVD's for us to share with our clients to help with entertainment during times where they have to stay at home. The donations have been gratefully received by our clients, and have helped us ensure that they have plenty to keep themselves occupied with whilst remaining in their own home. This support really shows how we are all pulling together to help each other in times like this."

This donation is part of the wider work that we are doing across the country to help support communities during the COVID-19 crisis. We have been working with schools

close to our developments during the lockdown period and a member of our team also shaved his head in order to raise money for the NHS.

Our management accountant, Josh Cross, got the clippers out in aid of NHS Charities Together. So far, he has raised over £800 to help support vulnerable people during this time. Josh said: "I can't run, so thought the least I could do was to chop my hair off. Not only will this raise money for a good cause, it will also help boost morale as people can have a laugh at me with no hair. A donation of £250 is enough money to provide PPE for a bed in ICU for two days, so I'm really pleased to have raised over triple this amount."

You can support Josh at www.justgiving.com/fundraising/josh-cross3.

Launching our sites safely and virtually

In May we were proud to launch our highly-anticipated new Swindon development, Ambrose Gardens. In line with social distancing measures, the launch was held virtually and our team worked remotely to help customers get a feel for the site from the comfort of their own homes.

The virtual launch was a huge success, with four homes being reserved shortly after the event, and customers are now able to visit the sales centre and show home in person on an appointment only basis.

In June we held another virtual launch for our Willow Park development at Chestnut Grove in Brackley, the third and final phase of new homes at Radstone Fields. Willow Park includes a collection of two, three and four bedroom homes and we have already seen plenty of interest.

Lauren Murphy, Sales Manager for Ambrose Gardens, said: "Being able to use the latest technology to launch Ambrose Gardens and Willow Park was a huge step in continuing to help our customers following the lockdown. Our sales centre and show home at Ambrose Gardens are now open for appointments, and for those who would prefer not to visit in person our brilliant sales executives have a range of tools they can use to help show off what will make both Ambrose Gardens and Willow Park such lovely places to call home.

"Interest has been incredibly high since we started on these sites and we have seen a number of reservations since the launches. To make sure that you don't miss out on your dream home, I'd urge you to visit our website and email the team to let us know how we can help. We're looking forward to meeting you."

Supporting care workers with a discount on new homes

As a thank you for their efforts during the COVID-19 pandemic, we are offering a special 5% discount off the purchase price of a home to NHS and other care support workers*.

On top of the 5% discount, and to help personalise the new homes, we'll also include fitted carpets for living areas and fitted vinyl flooring for all kitchens, bathrooms, cloakrooms and en suites.

Our care worker discount* is available to all current NHS staff, doctors, nurses, midwives, paramedics, prison officers, social workers, care workers, front line care home workers and other frontline health and social care staff; emergency services employees including those working in 999 call centres for ambulance, police and the fire service; the support and specialist staff required to maintain the UK's health and social care sector; teachers working in nursery, primary and secondary education and childcare workers; and armed forces personnel.

For more information, please visit www.taylorwimpey.co.uk/ways-to-buy/care-worker-discount.



Willow Park site manager recognised with top industry award

Our amazing Willow Park Site Manager Wayne Hayward has been recognised for his dedication to quality housebuilding with a top industry award – his sixth in total.

Wayne was one of three site managers from Taylor Wimpey Oxfordshire to receive a National House-Building Council (NHBC) Pride in the Job Quality Award in June. Also honoured this year were Martin Lloyd, based at Northbourne View, Great Western Park, Didcot, and Jack Preston, at Thornbury Green in Eynsham.

Wayne, who was honoured for his work at Bridleways in Banbury and now oversees work at Willow Park, has previously been recognised by the NHBC five times, including two Seal of Excellence awards – the next step up from the Quality Award.

The awards recognise an individual's dedication to building high-quality homes and are presented following a rigorous judging process by NHBC inspectors. This includes assessing the developments throughout the year, giving homebuyers the assurance that Taylor Wimpey's developments provide top-quality homes and excellent customer service.

Wayne said: "The awards I have achieved mean everything to me, as it's a recognition of all the hard work that my team and I put in to produce quality homes for our customers. Happy customers make coming to work even more enjoyable.

"I have always been quality-driven, right back to when I was an assistant site manager, and it is the only way I know. I set myself a target of trying to achieve five Quality Awards before I finish working, and I am delighted to now have received my sixth award."

Simon Cook, Production Director at Taylor Wimpey Oxfordshire, said: "We're delighted to have three Quality Award winners this year. It's a fantastic honour for each of the site managers, but also speaks volumes of the work that our site teams do across our developments. They all work incredibly hard and take great pride in ensuring that the homes we build are completed to the highest possible standards.

"We are committed to maintaining the highest levels of quality and customer service and this recognition has ensured that we continue to be an NHBC award-winning housebuilder year after year. Our team's Quality Awards are all thoroughly deserved and we'll all be supporting them as they progress through to the regional stage and hopefully to the grand final later this year."

Pride in the Job is the only UK-wide awards scheme that recognises the significant contribution of site managers who achieve the highest standards in new home construction. This year just 450 regional winners were chosen from around 11,000 who are eligible at the start of the competition.

We help primary school pupils to get creative at home

We've been working with schools near our developments to encourage children to get creative during lockdown by designing their dream bedroom.

We challenged pupils at four schools close to our developments to craft their ideal bedroom using materials of their choice. Pupils could submit drawings, digital creations or 3D models of their ideal space, limited only by their imagination.

The schools that took part were Hanwell Fields Community School in Banbury, Aureus Primary School in Didcot, Eynsham Primary School in Eynsham, Bampton Primary School in Bampton and The Radstone Primary School in Brackley.

A range of creative entries were submitted, featuring designs on paper, in Lego and using a variety of household materials. After a difficult judging process, a range of craft prizes were gifted to first, second and third place winners.

As a special bonus, the first-place winners and their classes will also be invited on a tour of their local Taylor Wimpey show home once it is safe to do so.



Lisa Burrell, Interior Designer at Redditch-based Claude Hooper, helped launch the competition by filming a video for pupils and was part of the judging panel. She said: "It's been great to see such a range of thoughtful and imaginative designs using a variety of materials, and it was definitely a challenge to choose the winner. I was absolutely spoiled for choice with all of the wonderful ideas, but was ultimately delighted to give out a range of arty prizes to award so much creativity."

We want to hear from you!

Over the past few months, the world has changed drastically and we've all had to adapt our lifestyles to keep each other safe during these difficult times.

Whilst everyone has had to make changes, we're sure that people will have found ways to keep their spirits up; whether it's video calls with family and friends, forming virtual community groups at their new

developments, or simply baking some good old-fashioned banana bread. Whatever it is that has helped pass the time whilst staying at home, we want to hear from you!

We'd love to hear your stories and share them with our customers across the region. If you have a story you'd like to tell us, please send it to sales.oxfordshire@taylorwimpey.com.

Don't miss out on your dream home – contact us today to book your appointment!

WILLOW PARK

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Call 01280 730 876

Get in touch

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Opening hours by appointment only
Monday–Sunday, 10am–5pm

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