

Summer 2023



Community Newsletter

Welcome to the first edition of our community newsletter

The 1.5-acre former ABC Cinema site that sits on the corner of Mount Pleasant Road and Church Road has been derelict for more than two decades. Retirement Villages were delighted to secure planning permission at the turn of the year to develop a Thrive Living collection integrated retirement community here, in the heart of Royal Tunbridge Wells.

The investment re-imagines this long disused space in such a prominent location and will enliven this part of the town centre. The Thrive Living collection aims to put older people back at the heart of our communities, whilst providing choice, flexibility, and wellbeing to those choosing to make the community their home.

With construction work set to begin in early 2024, we wanted to connect with the wider Tunbridge Wells community, and we propose to share updates, via this regular newsletter. We have also launched a **new Facebook page** (www.facebook.com/ThriveLivingInTunbridgeWells), which will provide regular updates on the development, as well as an updated website now live at tunbridge-wells.retirementvillages.co.uk.

Thrive Living is coming to Tunbridge Wells



We can announce that the Tunbridge Wells development will be part of the Thrive Living collection

Many ask us what that means?

The Thrive Living collection is a brand new collection of urban integrated retirement communities that will offer exciting new life choices for older people who want to stay active and connected for as long as possible. The Thrive Living collection aims to set a gold standard for sustainable development in the later living sector – all of our new communities are aiming to be whole life net zero carbon and will breathe new life into unoccupied and brownfield sites,

like the former cinema site in Tunbridge Wells town centre.

Our Thrive Living approach focuses on choice, flexibility, and wellbeing, offering people the freedom to continue to live life on their terms – without compromise.

You can find out more about the Thrive Living collection by visiting tunbridge-wells.retirementvillages.co.uk



An active and sociable community



More than 160 homes for older people



A whole life net zero carbon community



Improved public through-route East to West, with a landscaped courtyard



Improved commercial units on Mount Pleasant Road targeting independent, local businesses, rather than larger national chains



Shared amenities for residents and the wider community



Artist's impression of the new central landscaped courtyard

What is coming to Tunbridge Wells?

Planning consent was granted in Winter 2022/2023 for a later living community in this key town centre location. Featuring more than 160 new homes, all with access to outdoor space and on-site amenities, the development will also improve a key thoroughfare for the community at large to move from Mouth Ephraim through to Clanricarde Road, via a new central landscaped courtyard, that will provide a space for residents and the wider community to come together.

We have been busy behind the scenes preparing over recent weeks and are targeting a 'start-on-site' in early 2024. As plans advance, we will be glad to update all those with an interest in this site and its progress.

Communities built around people

We are looking to build a positive long-term relationship with the local community. If you run a local group or business or have any ideas on how we can work with you, and ultimately better connect our residents with the local community then we'd love to hear your thoughts.

Visit tunbridge-wells.retirementvillages.co.uk and fill in the contact form or contact community@tunbridgegwellretirementvillage.co.uk.

To stay updated with the latest news and information, please encourage friends, contacts and colleagues to "opt in" to receive our updates.



Local school children to start a facelift of the hoardings

Watch this space!

Alongside our partners at Trinity, we have had the pleasure of inviting pupils from four local schools to create illustrations on the site hoardings opposite the Town Hall.

Drawing inspiration from the town the children call home and the extraordinary older adults in their lives, workshops are well underway to create some magnificent visuals to brighten the hoarding that has become such a fixture of the town centre. It'll need to remain in situ for a couple of years yet while construction begins, so we thought it was high time it looked better!

We can't wait to share news of a grand unveiling in the coming weeks.

In the meantime, a huge thank you is due to Jason, Katie and the whole Trinity team, as well as the staff and pupils at Bishops Down Primary School, St Barnabas Primary School, Temple Grove Academy and The Wells Free School.

Year 6 Pupils at St Barnabas Primary School sharing stories of older people they admire and find extraordinary

Supporting arts and culture in Tunbridge Wells

The homes we are creating provide a community within a community. Our experience tells us many retirement living residents are eager to engage in their area, and we expect Tunbridge Wells to be a case in point. That's why we are proud to support beacons of togetherness like Trinity Theatre, whose programme of events, arts and education is already an asset to the town.

Retirement Villages is delighted to have confirmed itself as a community partner to Trinity for the year ahead.

Trinity has an exciting array of events, talks, exhibitions and performances coming up – do visit their “what’s on” page, or pop into the box office, to find out more.

Trinity is thrilled to welcome Thrive Living to Tunbridge Wells as our new neighbours and partners. We are really looking forward to collaborating with them on exciting projects in the future.

Nick Mowat, Chief Executive of Trinity Theatre

Year 5/6 pupils at Temple Grove Academy collaborating on creating dynamic portraits for our hoardings

