

The Phoenix Project : April Update

Dear All,

I'm writing to let you know we've acquired the part of the North Street site in Lewes formerly owned by Masrei (known as Santon). It's taken 18 months of hard work to get to this point, so I'm delighted to share this milestone with you, along with a few quick updates on the project.

Thank you to colleagues, our professional advisors, investors, members and councillors at Lewes District Council for their excellent support during this process.

To mark this chapter for the site, we're giving it a new working title: **The Phoenix Project**. We'll consult on the final name for the neighbourhood as the plans for it emerge.

Our design team

We are still at a very early stage in the project and over the past few months our team has been hard at work gathering ideas, insight and evidence to inform the site masterplan. We've appointed a talented wider team of designers, engineers, architects, mobility specialists and ecology consultants to work with us, bringing a broad range of skills and experience together to begin forming plans for this exciting new scheme.

Normally at this stage in our projects, we work through a series of intense workshops – typically on site. But in these Covid times, like everyone else, we're having to do things differently, so we recently held our first 2-day design team workshop online. [Here's a short film of snippets from the workshop.](#)

Many in our team appear in the film and we will introduce them in future newsletters. We hope you'll have the chance to meet some of them in person in the coming months.

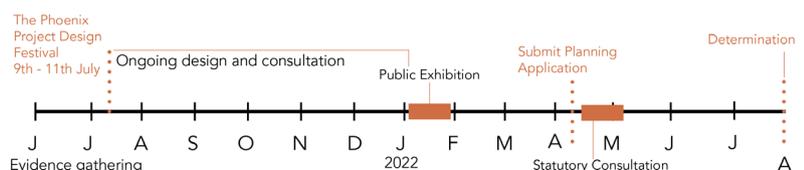
The Phoenix Project Design Festival

We're already in touch with a wide range of people, groups and community organisations around town for the purpose of introducing ourselves and understanding early priorities and aspirations.

A key event coming up is the Phoenix Project Design Festival which we'll host on the site from 9th - 11th July. We're looking forward to welcoming people from across the town and district to join us then, in shaping plans for this important regeneration project. We hope to make this a really exciting and informative event that will appeal to families as well as specialised consultees. We'll write soon with more details!

The indicative outline programme

The outputs from the design and consultation process will feed into a new planning application which we intend to submit next spring. Here's a snapshot of the timeline for the next 18 months:



Young People

One of the many aspects we're focusing on is how this new neighbourhood could work well for young people. With this in mind, we've been working in partnership with [Culture Shift](#) as part of a Your Town Engineers programme funded by the RA Ingenious Fund. We are supporting students at East Sussex College as they develop ideas for the site – you'll be able to see their designs for parklets, bicycle hubs, river use and youth facilities at the Festival. If you have a creative young person in your family who'd like to get involved, do please send an email to Lily at lily.holbrook@humannature-places.com.

Keeping in Touch

From next month we'll start circulating regular newsletters with project news, emerging plans, designs and upcoming events. We'll also share ideas and inspiration from other exciting projects and places around the world that we can learn from in shaping the best possible place here in Lewes.

If you're not already on our mailing list and would like to receive these newsletters please sign up [here](#).

And we'd be super grateful if you'd forward this to anyone you think might be interested.

Best wishes,

Jonathan Smales

CEO, Human Nature