

Property Survey

Those of you who came to the May Open Day or have spoken to Sarah will know that the Property Survey has started. The purpose is to establish all the work which needs to be done and the total estimated cost. This will help us decide the items of work to be covered by the grant and the amount for each property. Our target is to complete the Survey in September 06. If you have not yet been approached, please bear with us because the surveyors are working flat out and will be contacting you to make an appointment over the next few weeks.



The survey is funded by SHARP and there will be no charge to households/ owners. It is a unique opportunity to get some expert advice on your property's general condition and discuss improvement options.

Please note that the amount of grant to be offered to individual property/ business owners will only be known in the autumn when we have established the local communities' priorities and completed the area's Property Survey. We will then meet individual households / owners to discuss the findings of the survey, repair/ improvement work needed, and, the amount of grant we could offer.

Baseline Perception Survey

Sarah and George will be visiting all of you over the next few weeks to find out how you feel about your area and what you see as priorities. This will be fed back to the Project Board and mark the baseline position, from which the improvement process is to be built.

We will ask you again in two years time when SHARP ends, so that we can find out whether the Project has made any difference and if so how much.

Finally

If you know of a neighbour who has difficulty with reading and/or the English Language, please contact Sarah or George.



Hotline Number 01493 844279
Email sharp@great-yarmouth.gov.uk
Website www.gySHARP.org.uk

■ WHAT IS SHARP ?

SHARP is about creating a better quality of life and business environment for the area, and, a pleasant experience for the visitors. We plan to do this by working in partnership with residents, property/ business owners and service providers to capitalise on the area's architectural heritage and transform unsightly empty properties into good quality homes for sale and rent.

The initiative will bring all residential units to a good state of repair with modern kitchens, bathrooms, heating and insulation; upgrade the appearance of buildings and street scene. e.g. railings, planters/ hanging baskets, pavements/ parking, street lighting.

Thanks to the £4.42m two-year programme funded by Go East (the Government Office for Eastern Region), SHARP will be offering grants to encourage owners improve their properties (more details to come). This funding is expected to attract other investments including those by property/ business owners.

However, SHARP is not just about bricks and mortar. It is about bringing the local communities and service providers together to explore better ways of delivering services in the area to meet local priorities. This may include lifelong learning, health provisions, training & employment, business support, street cleansing/ refuse collection, and Policing.



In short, SHARP is about helping local communities to help themselves and shape their own future - so that residents, businesses and service providers join forces to continue the regeneration process when SHARP ends.



■ MEETING THE NEW SHARP TEAM

Great Yarmouth Borough Council, the organisation behind the scheme, has appointed a team of three to run SHARP. Here is an introduction to them:

William Wong – Project Manager

William is a Chartered Town Planner and has served local government for over twenty-seven years (north and east London). For the best part of his career, he has been engaged as project manager for a wide range of schemes - property development, socio-economic strategy/ programme, environmental improvement and public private multi-agency regeneration partnerships.

He has overall responsibility for SHARP including its co-ordination at planning and delivery stage - making sure that the respective teams deliver on time, within budget, and meet the priorities agreed with the local communities and other stakeholders.

William's direct line is 01493 844282 and his email address is

ww@great-yarmouth.gov.uk

Sarah Wilkinson – Project Liaison Officer

Sarah has many years experience in housing and regeneration. She is responsible for ensuring residents, businesses and other stakeholders are kept up to date on progress of the Project and involved in its planning and delivery.

Sarah's direct line is 01493 844260 and her email address is

srw@great-yarmouth.gov.uk

Georgette Kent – Project Support Officer

George, as she is known to her colleagues, came from an IT and Customer Services background. She is responsible for setting up/ maintaining the project's record/ financial system and supporting the Project Manager's Team. She is also responsible for the planning and day-to-day management of Sharp's Show Home/ Office due to open later this year.

George's direct line is 01493 844279 and her email address is

gck@great-yarmouth.gov.uk

The sharp Team have been supported by a number of Councils Services in developing the initiative – including Architectural Services, Renewal Services, Planning and Development, Environment and Health. These will be joined by others including services outside the Council as the Project is further developed.

■ YOU KNOW YOUR AREA BEST

We are calling on volunteers to work with us to deliver these improvements. Your local knowledge will be invaluable in planning and prioritising the improvement process. Sarah will be conducting a survey with all residents and business owners in the coming weeks to find out their priorities. Please think about giving up some of your precious time to serve your own community - getting involved in discussions, exploring options and putting forward proposals. Don't worry if you have not done this kind of things before, as we will provide you with all the support you will need.

■ WHAT 'S HAPPENING NOW ?

Making Contacts

The good news is we have now made contact with some 80 per cent of residents and owners. This is a great achievement and we would like to thank everyone for their enthusiastic response.

Appointment of Building Contractors

The Council has appointed two local building contractors to work with us as partners to deliver the building work. They are MS Oakes Ltd and T Gill & Sons Ltd. There will be an opportunity to meet them in a few weeks.



