

MEDIA RELEASE

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Thamesmead schoolchildren celebrate opening of a new state of the art playground



Thamesmead children and their parents flocked to Broadwater Green in West Thamesmead last week (28 March) to explore a revamped play space, reopened in time for the Easter holidays.

The new attraction was created by Peabody – which is leading the long-term regeneration of Thamesmead – in partnership with principal designer Land Use Consultants (LUC), landscape contractor Bowles & Wyer and artist Jim Buchanan Projects. Residents had a say in the design proposals and project plans ahead of construction.

Replacing an outdated play area, the new interactive space includes a standout wooden climbing structure, slides, swings, balance beams, and sensory play elements which primarily cater for children up to age 14, though some of the features may also appeal to children up to 16. Other improvements include:

- New paths and fencing
- New seating, including a rustic sculptural bench
- A woodland walking trail
- New trees, wildflower planting, grassed areas and bird/bat boxes to enhance biodiversity.

At the opening event, children tried out the new play facilities as well as enjoying a treasure hunt, willow weaving, seed planting, getting their faces painted and making their own fruit juices courtesy of a smoothie bike.

Sue Forsyth, Peabody’s Project Manager for Landscape in Thamesmead, said: “Many local people were eager for us to bring this play space back to life. Seeing so many families come to the opening celebration shows just how much the community values it. We’re confident that it’ll be a well-used and well-loved space for local children to enjoy, now and many years into the future.”

Ed Manning, Associate Landscape Architect at LUC, said: “It’s fantastic to have reached this point, to see local children and families enjoying the new play space. It is such an amazing turnaround from how the area used to be when the scheme was originally conceived.

“The scheme takes its inspiration from the woodland character of the site and rich local heritage of ropemaking for ship building. This is now a multi-functional space, and the newly planted trees and wildflower meadow will mature over time providing a wonderful setting for outdoor play and education for years to come.”

Dan Riddleston, Managing Director at Bowles & Wyer, said: “Our team is extremely proud to have delivered this outstanding space for Peabody and the users of this refurbished playground at Broadwater Green.”

Find out more about Peabody’s long-term regeneration of Thamesmead [here](#).

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About Thamesmead

Thamesmead is a town in South-East London and is the same size as central London with a population of 45,000 people. Its rich landscape includes 240 hectares of parks and green space; 7km of canals; five lakes; 5km of river frontage and 53,000 trees.

Peabody has been leading the regeneration of the town since 2014, after becoming the town’s main landholder. Our mission is to grow, improve and look after Thamesmead for the long term. We aim to bring about thousands of homes and jobs, alongside new leisure, cultural and commercial facilities over the next two decades. The area’s green spaces, waterways and lakes will be at the heart of everyday life, while the West End is just 25 minutes away thanks to the opening of the Elizabeth Line.

About Peabody

More than 160 years after it was established, Peabody is one of the oldest not-for-profit housing associations in the UK.

The Peabody Group is responsible for more than 108,000 homes, with around 220,000 residents across London and the Home Counties. We also have around 17,000 care and support customers.

Our purpose is to help people flourish, and we are getting closer to residents by taking a local approach.

We are committed to delivering a responsive and easily accessible repairs service and investing in our existing homes so they are safe and well maintained. Our retrofit projects will make thousands of our homes more energy efficient.

We work with councils and communities to promote economic inclusion, tackle inequality and poverty, and prioritise wellbeing.

Our rents were £621m lower than the market in 2022/23. With an average rent of £127 per week in London and the south-east, we offer significant value for residents and communities.

We are also committed to building much-needed affordable homes.

About LUC

LUC is an award-winning environmental consultancy providing landscape design, planning, impact assessment and ecology services to a wide range of public and private sector clients. With a track record of over 55 years and a team of more than 300 skilled professionals, LUC brings a passion for the environment and a determination to achieve sustainable development on behalf of clients.

About Bowles & Wyer

Bowles & Wyer is a landscape design and build company with a reputation for creating award-winning gardens and landscapes through their imaginative approach and the high-quality service they provide.

Their clients are varied and challenging with projects ranging from an urban oasis in the heart of London's Kensington to large country garden in the home counties and beyond.

As a BALI Grand Award-winning contractor Bowles and Wyer offers a complete hard and soft landscaping construction service to garden designers and landscape architects alike. Their award-winning gardening aftercare service is also recognised throughout the industry as a benchmark to which others aspire.