

**19<sup>th</sup> January, 2023**

## **COMMUNITY CANTEEN, DOUBLE-DECKER FOOD BUS, AMONG INITIATIVES LAUNCHED AT CLAPHAM PARK TO TACKLE COST-OF-LIVING PRESSURES**

***Countryside Partnerships & MTVH announce funding of 12-month community food programme at Clapham Park in partnership with Be Enriched***

Countryside Partnerships and Metropolitan Thames Valley Housing (MTVH), are proud to announce the funding of a 12-month community programme at Clapham Park which will bring people together over hot, healthy food, in partnership with local charity Be Enriched.

Countryside and MTVH are JV partners in the delivery of the £1bn regeneration scheme at Clapham Park. This initiative forms part of the Joint Venture Partnership's response to the cost-of-living crisis and aims to support residents' financial resilience and provide a warm space and a meal in the local community centre, Clapham Park Cube.

Based in South London, Be Enriched works with volunteers to bring communities together to eat, make friends and learn new skills.

The Clapham Community Canteen, located at the Clapham Park Cube, on 116 King's Avenue, SW4 8EP will take place once a week on Wednesday with lunch served at 1pm.

Alongside this, Be Enriched is working to co-ordinate its Food Bus – the first converted double-decker bus of its kind – to stop outside the Clapham Park Cube on Friday mornings. The bus will offer low-cost groceries, cupboard items and more, whilst the Café on the top deck will provide a space to have a coffee and catch up with friends. The start date for this is currently being confirmed.

The partnership will be supplemented by work with Brixton People's Kitchen, the social enterprise sister of Be Enriched, to also deliver a weekly community food pantry and café which will provide affordable food for the community and support residents to reduce their outgoings. Work is currently being undertaken on setting this up.

In addition, MTVH and Countryside will work with local partners to ensure there are wrap around services integrated with the Community Canteen and Café to help meet local needs. Some of the partners will include Age UK, Love London Working and the Lambeth Benefits support team. Local volunteers will also be recruited and trained so that they have the opportunity to play an active part in the delivery of the project and help the wider community.

Once complete, the Clapham Park regeneration scheme will deliver at least 2,482 high-quality homes for Lambeth Council across 17 sites, of which 53% will be affordable. These include family homes, apartments and retirement living. There will also be a community

centre, a market square, two parks, commercial and retail space, and a district heating system. The homes will be built to high sustainability standards, and residents will benefit from extensive cycle parking, electric vehicle charging points and improved public green space.

Keeping the community at the heart of redevelopment, Countryside and MTVH have allocated an initial sum of £1m towards placemaking and community building activities, ensuring the benefits of the regeneration can be felt and observed from day one.

**Kate Ives, Strategic Growth Director, Countryside Partnerships, comments:** *'We are thrilled to be working with MTVH to support the local community in Clapham. At Countryside Partnerships, we truly believe in creating communities where people love to live and Clapham Park embodies this – it is such an important regeneration scheme that will create much-needed new homes in the area, alongside delivering a community centre, market square, two parks and much more. Working alongside Be Enriched, we are proud to be funding a 12-month community food programme that will help to tackle food insecurity to support residents at Clapham Park, ensuring that the benefits of the regeneration can be felt from the start.'*

**Guy Palmer, Director of Regeneration at MTVH said,** *"We are acutely aware that too many people are facing difficult and challenging cost of living pressures. So, we are delighted to be working alongside Countryside Partnerships and Be Enriched to deliver this important initiative. Not only will those living in the area have access to affordable and healthy food and a warm place to meet, but also the crucial support and advice needed to help reduce outgoings. It will make a very real difference to the community and reflects our commitment to enhancing the wellbeing of local people, which lies at the heart of the wider regeneration of Clapham Park in partnership with Countryside."*

**Kemi Akinola, Founder and CEO, Be Enriched, commented:** *"For the last nine years we have been bringing the Elephant and Castle, and Tooting communities together over a hot meal made by some wonderful volunteers. Times are hard right now, and only getting tougher, so we are pleased to be able to support the Clapham community with this new canteen. Anyone is welcome to join us for a hot, healthy meal. We are also seeking volunteers to help cook up some amazing dishes. No experience is required, and if you'd like to learn more, meet your neighbours, or help others, please get in touch."*

-ENDS-

## **MEDIA ENQUIRIES**

**Countryside**

Sara Champness / Ellen Spry

**07990 528426**

[countryside@secnewgate.co.uk](mailto:countryside@secnewgate.co.uk)

## NOTES TO EDITORS

### **About Countryside Partnerships:**

In November 2022 Countryside Partnerships merged with Vistry Partnerships, to form one of the country's leading mixed-tenure developers as part of Vistry Group. The combined business incorporates over 40 years' experience of collaborative working with partners in both the public and private sectors.

In partnership with housing associations, public bodies, landowners and institutional private rental operators, Countryside Partnerships delivers multiple tenures, including affordable homes, build to rent homes and homes for private sale. The company maintains a strong focus on place-making, designing places people love to create long-term sustainable communities across the UK, including some of the country's most complex regeneration and master planned sites.

Countryside Partnerships is part of Vistry Group PLC which also includes Vistry Housebuilding, and housing brands Bovis Homes and Linden Homes.

The Group has been awarded the 5 Star Rating by the Home Builders Federation following the latest home building industry's Customer Satisfaction Survey.

For more information see [www.countrysidepartnerships.com](http://www.countrysidepartnerships.com) or follow @Countryside\_PS on Twitter.

### **About Be Enriched:**

Be Enriched is a charity on a mission to create a world buzzing with connections, where people, food and planet are united. It delivers a range of projects, including Community Canteens; The Food Bus, a specially converted double-decker which takes affordable food and essential supplies to communities that need them; and Healthy Holidays, providing children with developmental activities and food when schools are closed. It also supports delivery of the Wandsworth Food Partnership, and works closely with its sister social enterprise, Brixton People's Kitchen.

Find out more at: <https://www.be-enriched.org/>

### **About MTVH:**

Metropolitan Thames Valley (MTVH) is one of the UK's largest housing associations, providing affordable homes, and care and support services. It owns, manages or administers around 57,000 homes across London, the South East, East Midlands and East of England.

MTVH is a member of the National Housing Federation and currently chairs the G15, which represents London's largest housing associations that collectively house one in ten Londoners. MTVH believes everyone should have access to a home and the opportunity to live well.

MTVH corporate website is [mtvh.co.uk](http://mtvh.co.uk) and you can follow on Twitter @MetTVH