

Barneslai Beacon

Summer 2026



Making a difference in local communities

Monk Bretton Community Partnership Day

Find independent living in Barnsley Page 3

Get involved and have your say Page 5 & 8

Stay safe in your home Page 6

● COMMUNITY STORIES ● EVENTS ● TOP TIPS

Welcome!

...to the latest edition
of our newspaper.

Welcome to the new Chief Executive of Berneslai Homes

Steve Feast became the new Chief Executive on Wednesday 1 April and brings over 20 years' experience as a senior leader in the housing sector.

He's worked for local authorities, housing associations, and a number of arms-length management organisations, and started his housing career at Barnsley Council!

As someone who lives in Barnsley, Steve has a real commitment to improving our local communities and delivering great services to tenants.

"It's great to be back working in Barnsley. I've been spending time out in the community and with tenants to understand what is important to them and what they would like Berneslai Homes to do more of."

I've also spent a lot of time with all our colleagues to get to know our business and the pressures they face on a daily basis. We have a fantastic group of people who want to do more for tenants and communities in Barnsley and I'm determined to support them to do that."



A chat with... Steve Feast, the new Chief Executive of Berneslai Homes



"I have worked in housing for 35 years now so have a range of experience in different roles, geographical areas, and types of organisations. Leading an ALMO means we have total concentration on delivering great services to council tenants.

"My focus is on how we can improve the services we provide to tenants and communities. Firstly, we have to listen to tenants to make sure we are clear on the issues and then work with tenants to put in place changes. I'm proud of the success this approach has had in areas such as repairs and maintenance in my previous roles and I'm keen to replicate this in Barnsley."

Q: What are some of the personal qualities that are important to you?

"Integrity - being honest, true to yourself and doing the right thing. Ambition - driving forward to achieve more and better. Caring about people and supporting people to achieve what they want to achieve."

And finally, tell us a bit more about yourself.

Q: What's your favourite film?

"I have two; The Usual Suspects and Sleepers."

Q: What's your favourite holiday destination?

"I've just been to Thailand which was amazing. I really like exploring different parts of the UK too."

Q: What's your favourite way to unwind after a busy day?

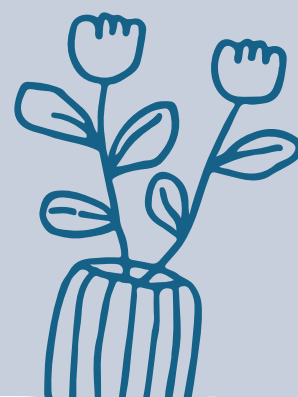
"Coaching kids and young people to play football is a great outlet for me. My current group are under 18s and they're really funny. I also like getting out and watching live music."

- Thanks Steve!





Independent living across Barnsley



Our independent living schemes are for people who want to keep their independence, with the added security of independent living officers and optional assistive technology.

The schemes have accommodation all under one roof with self-contained flats where you have the key to your own front door, and you can come and go as you please. Each scheme has some shared facilities such as a communal lounge, kitchen, and laundry room.

If you have a disability or find living in your current home difficult, a flat in an independent living scheme could make your life easier. Some schemes also offer optional social activities to bring residents together and reduce feelings of loneliness and isolation.

The benefits of independent living schemes:

- Separate flats in one building with your own front door (some schemes have bungalows separate to the communal facilities).
- A home set out on one level and lift access to upper floors.
- Optional availability of telecare alarm / call system (with an additional charge).
- Mobility scooter store at most schemes (dependent on availability).
- Communal lounge and kitchen to socialise and meet others.
- Optional community / social activities.
- Most schemes have Wi-Fi access in the communal lounge.
- District heating system.



Independent living officers

Our independent living officers offer low level support, but they don't provide personal or medical care.

They're responsible for the management of the building and health and safety in communal areas. They also help to arrange various social activities.

Refer a friend

If you're already an Independent Living Scheme resident you can refer a friend to accommodation within your building. If they're successful with their application, you could both receive £50 in gift vouchers.*

For more information or to make a referral, speak to your ILS officer or phone us on **01226 787878** and quote 'Independent Living Scheme referral'.

*Conditions apply. The new resident must have signed their tenancy agreement and moved in.



Scan the QR code to hear from Val and Betty who live at Saville Court in Hoyland.



How to apply

You'll need to be aged 60 and over, although in some circumstances, we'll consider applicants aged 40 and over.

Call us on **01226 787878** for more information about our schemes.

Scan the QR code to find out more:



Creating great communities together

We're committed to having a positive impact on neighbourhoods and making sure you have your say on what's happening in your community.

From joining us on estate walkabouts and community clean-ups to becoming a Community Champion there's lots of ways to get involved and inspire others to love where they live!

Take a look at some of the activities we've been up to lately, working with partners, tenants, and residents to make a difference in local communities.

Partnership working in Monk Bretton

Spotted us in your area recently?

From joint estate walkabouts to special community days, we're partnering with the Love Where You Live Action team more regularly to make a positive contribution to your neighbourhood.

We brought the Monk Bretton community together offering a range of advice from Barnsley Council, Age UK, Groundwork Yorkshire, and South Yorkshire Police to support residents.

Meanwhile, Barnsley Council's Love Where You Live Action team were out in the area clearing 280kg waste from gardens and 400kg in other items like bulky waste and fly-tipping!

Making communities safer

We joined forces with South Yorkshire Police and Barnsley Council to mark ASB Awareness Week, a national campaign which shines a spotlight on anti-social behaviour and community safety.

From Monday 29 June – Friday 3 July we were out in the community offering advice on how to report anti-social behaviour and home safety tips.

During the week, our Can Do Crew volunteers tidied up the Honeywell estate, working together to collect 20 purple bags full of rubbish – we also had two free skips filled by local residents!



Looking after your garden

Messy gardens are a real blight on local neighbourhoods so follow these top tips to keep yours looking good this summer:

- prune back any large hedges or shrubs in your garden
- look after any fencing that's your responsibility
- recycle rubbish using the right bins
- dispose of large items (bulky waste) properly
- pick up dog poo

If you're struggling to keep your garden tidy, we can help – call us on **01226 787878** to get advice from our Neighbourhood team.



What's on in your local area

Ready to try something new and connect with your local community?

From local litter picks to trying new activities or groups, it's all about joining in, having a go, and feeling part of a community you can call home.

For more information about events taking place near you, please visit barnsley.gov.uk/LoveWhereYouLive



£8,432.68

Raised!

Barneslai Homes + Barnsley Hospice partnership



Barneslai Homes is proud to be supporting Barnsley Hospice as our chosen charity of the year for the second year running.

Last year, an impressive £8,432.68 was raised for the hospice, which provides specialist palliative and end-of-life care for people across the borough. We also provided practical support with decorating, electrical work, and volunteering.

This year's fundraising efforts have already got off to a great start including abseiling off Barnsley College, running in Barnsley 10k, and a World Cup sweepstake!



Become a Community Champion

Join our Community Champion network and work with us to create great communities!

You'll help to keep an eye out for local problems, suggest areas for improvement, and tell us about general issues on estates, whether good or bad.

We'll keep you posted about how to share your views, by providing feedback at your convenience over the phone or by email, there's no need to attend any meetings.

If you've got a passion for your community and you're looking for a way to make a positive difference, get in touch today.

Email communityengagement@barneslaihomes.co.uk or call us on 01226 774376.

Don't forget to give us your name, address, and phone number when you contact us!



Scan the QR code to find out what's happening in your area!

Staying safe in your home



We want everyone to be safe in their homes, and we work hard to keep you safe by carrying out repairs and maintenance, regular gas and electrical testing, and working together with tenants and leaseholders to hear your feedback.

From testing your smoke alarms to support on hoarding, we're sharing some useful advice to help keep you safe. Take a look at some of our top home safety tips below!

We really want to see those fingers!

Are you checking your smoke and carbon monoxide alarms every week?

Make it a weekly habit to test your smoke and carbon monoxide alarms:

- Simply press the button to see if the alarm sounds. If it does, then it's working properly.
- If you don't think your alarms are working properly, call us on **01226 787878** so we can replace them for you. We aim to attend within 24 hours.



Worried about hoarding? Support is available

Hoarding is where someone stores lots of items in their home, leading to clutter building up and increasing the chance of a fire.

If you, or someone you know is struggling with too much stuff at home, help is available:

- You can speak to your GP or find out more about hoarding and access urgent support by visiting **www.nhs.uk** and searching 'hoarding'.
- Contact your neighbourhood officer and the Tenants First team for support from Berneslai Homes.

- Go along to D'Clutter Club, – a hoarding support group run by Barnsley Safeguarding Adults Board. It's hosted at Library @The Lightbox in Barnsley town centre, 6-8pm on the last Tuesday of every month (except December). The group is free to attend and open to friends, family, and supporters – there's no need to book.

Find out more

Scan the QR code to visit our website for more information about hoarding:



Reduce the risk of a fire in your home

There are some simple steps you can take to reduce the risk of fire in your home.

- Test your smoke alarms every week.
- Keep your home tidy and clutter free with access to doors and windows clear.
- Keep internal doors closed, especially at night and when you go out.
- Plan an escape route from every room and make sure everyone in your home knows how to get out in the event of a fire.

Person-centred fire risk assessment

For vulnerable tenants who are at higher risk, we can carry out a person-centred fire risk assessment to identify risks and give fire safety advice. If you could benefit from this and you have something that increases your risk such as a disability or mobility issues, struggle with hoarding, or you smoke heavily – please get in touch.

Find out more by calling us on **01226 787878** and ask to speak with the Fire Safety Officer or email firesafety@berneslaihomes.co.uk

You can also contact your neighbourhood officer or the fire service directly.

Scan the QR code to book a home safety visit with South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue.



Prevent Legionella in your home

Legionella can grow in your home, especially where water sits still or isn't used often. It's important you take a few minutes to check your taps, showers, and garden hoses if they haven't been used for a while, for example if you've been away on holiday. Cold water should stay below 20°C and hot water should reach at least 50°C at the tap within one minute of running.

Remember our top tips to prevent Legionella building up in your home, keeping you and your loved ones safe:

- ✓ **Run all taps and showers, and flush toilets at least once a week, especially if they haven't been used for seven days or more.**

- ✓ **Clean shower heads and taps frequently to remove any bacteria.**
- ✓ **Run outdoor taps at least once a week to reduce risk.**
- ✓ **Empty and clean water butts annually.**
- ✓ **Spa pools and hot tubs should be maintained according to the manufacturer's instructions.**

Let us know if your boiler isn't working properly, cold water feels warm after running, or you notice discolouration in your water.

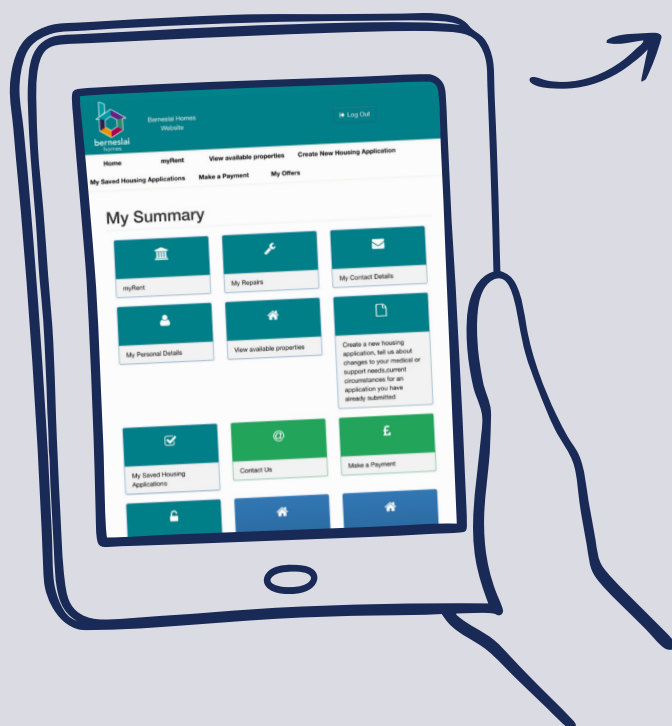
Did you know...? You can now report non-emergency repairs online

My Repairs is your online service for reporting non-emergency repairs, accessed using your Housing Online account. It's quick and simple to log repairs, check progress, and keep your contact details up to date.

Scan the QR code to watch our 'how to' video guide for My Repairs:

Prefer to call us? You can still call **01226 787878** during office hours for non-emergency repairs.

Always call the 24/7 Repairs Hotline on **01226 787878** for emergencies!



Talk is Change

'Talk is Change' and we believe the best way of improving our services is to work closely with tenants and residents – listening and responding to your feedback. Your views are important to us and every voice matters.

We have a range of involvement opportunities for tenants and leaseholders. Some are paid, some are voluntary, and all are designed to fit around your life. You don't need any previous knowledge - just your voice, your ideas, and your lived experience.

We're able to offer training, provide transport and equipment, and cover your expenses for the activities you do for Berneslai Homes.



Scan the QR code to find out more or contact the Engagement Team by emailing **communityengagement@berneslaihomes.co.uk**



Are you eligible for Pension Credit?

Pension Credit doesn't just provide financial support – it unlocks valuable additional help that could save you hundreds of pounds each year.

If you get Pension Credit, you might also qualify for:

- Council Tax Reduction to lower your council tax bill
- Housing Benefit
- Help with some NHS costs and energy bills

Check if you're eligible by using the online calculator at **gov.uk/pension-credit-calculator** or call **0800 99 1234**.



Subscribe to our YouTube channel!

Our YouTube channel is a great place to catch up with the latest news and information, including our monthly Customer Engagement Team video newsletter showcasing the difference tenants are making across Barnsley.



Find us online at **www.youtube.com/@BerneslaiHomes** or scan the QR code.



Contact us

Find us online

We hope you've enjoyed reading our newspaper. If you have internet access at home or on a smartphone or tablet, you can keep up with all the latest news online too!

Our website is full of useful information and is available 24/7 at **berneslaihomes.co.uk**

Find us on social media

- facebook.com/berneslaihomes.page
- Instagram.com/berneslaihomes
- youtube.com/BerneslaiHomes