



# Bertha Park Bulletin

## Issue 2

**Capability  
Scotland**

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## Accessibility is Key

We want to make sure these newsletters are accessible for you to read in a way you prefer. We've got a few versions ready to go but welcome any request for a different version. Get in touch if you need this in another format:

hello@capability.scot

### **Makaton and Spoken Video:**

<https://bit.ly/BPIssue2>

### **Large Print & Easy Read:**

<https://bit.ly/BP2EasyRead>

### **Symbolised Version:**

<https://bit.ly/BP2Symbols>

# Welcome!

Welcome to the second edition of the Bertha Park Bulletin – your regular newsletter that brings the latest updates on our plans to replace the Upper Springland campus with a new purpose-built facility at Bertha Park.

## What's New?

A lot has happened since we first shared the exciting news of our plans to create new, exemplar and enabling services and accommodation on the new Bertha Park development, putting us at the heart of the new community.

In this edition, we will:

- Update you on current progress
- Let you know what is due to happen next
- Reveal our 'mock-up' of a proposed studio flat – and explain how you can play an important part in helping to shape our plans for Bertha Park.
- Introduce you to Jennifer Dalrymple who will lead our new 'co-production' role to ensure you, our staff, customers, and families are fully involved in the creation of the final design.
- Share some of the comments and feedback we've had to date

In addition, Brian Logan, our Chief Executive, has prepared a short video sharing an overview of the project to date and invites you all to view using the following link:

<https://bit.ly/BPIssue2>



## What progress has been made?

Last July, we outlined the reasons behind the planned move to Bertha Park and the exciting ambition we have for the project. We were delighted that the response we got from customers, staff and families to our plans was positive. Our strategic partners – including Perth and Kinross Health & Social Care Partnership, Perth and Kinross Council and NHS Tayside – have all enthusiastically welcomed the project. We also commissioned Queen Margaret University to conduct important research to ensure the project delivers the correct service and facilities.

## What is the latest position?

Following the high levels of support we received for the plans, this gave us the support and confidence to present a case to the Capability Scotland Board in November for the project to move to an important next phase. The Board now want us to start negotiations to secure the proposed land we'd need at Bertha Park.

## What will happen next?

A recommendation on the purchase of the land will go to the Board in April. We promise to keep you informed, and involved in the co-production process of all aspects of the building and service development of the Bertha Park Project. We will continue to issue regular newsletters – and we have plans for a dedicated project website where we will keep you updated on progress.

## What role can I play?

Although we are still at a fairly early stage in the process, we are committed to ensuring stakeholders play a fundamental part in the design process and eventual move. We want you to share your hopes and expectations for the Bertha Park Project – it's essential to the success of the project you help to shape and inform the plans.

This will be a 'co-production' process – and we will outline more about this in the article about Jennifer Dalrymple on the following pages.



**I am excited to  
have a bigger  
room**

## Mock-up Studio Flat

We had lots of interest in our plan to create a life-size mock-up of a proposed studio flat and, at some 50% larger than an existing studio, we are delighted to say this has now been built in our theatre at Upper Springland.

Designed by architects Anderson Bell + Christie, the mock-up has been constructed like a theatre stage set - the walls have been framed in wooden panels with minimal furniture added to allow customers and staff to better view the studio space and consider its potential as we work together to further develop and refine the final design.

It's an accessible, familiar and convenient location for Upper Springland customers, staff and visiting family members to use. The balcony in the Theatre Room adds the opportunity for a unique overhead perspective.

The studio mock-up will become a key component of the 'co-production' design process of the Bertha Park Project - it's been commissioned to provide a tangible and tactile way to gather meaningful feedback around the practical issues of creating a new home and importantly, your aspirations and ideas on what works better and best around this whole process.

Initially, the focus will be on the use and practicalities of the space and how you will access your new home. We'd want to know if there is enough room

for your wheelchair(s) to be stored and charged; if there is enough room for you to turn and manoeuvre in your home, plus any other thoughts on the layout and design of the living space.

Over the development of the design phase, it will be used to allow you to trial and experiment with different features and personalisation such as furniture, door designs, colours and assistive technologies.

Given the open design and venue, there is also the opportunity to host discussions and even enjoy drama sessions to allow you to better express your feelings about a new home and a move from Upper Springland.

The mock-up will be a work in progress and evolve until all design and service elements have been shared and opinions logged. We will instruct contractors to alter the mock-up design based on consultation and your feedback, and you can attend as many times as you want.

Our Co-production Lead, Jennifer Dalrymple, is currently consulting on an initial programme of activities based around using the mock-up to ensure customers, staff and families have a chance to visit and to share their views. Jennifer will be scheduling visits to the mock-up and will be in direct contact with you all to arrange viewings.

Please look out for further information coming forward.

**I would love to see a mock flat**



During construction



An aerial view of the room



A room with a view



Wheelchair storage



We need you to help shape the future!

## Meet Jennifer Dalrymple

We're delighted to introduce our new Co-Production Leader, Jennifer Dalrymple.

Although Jennifer is known to many of you through her previous job role at Upper Springland, her position on the Bertha Park Project will be new to everyone.

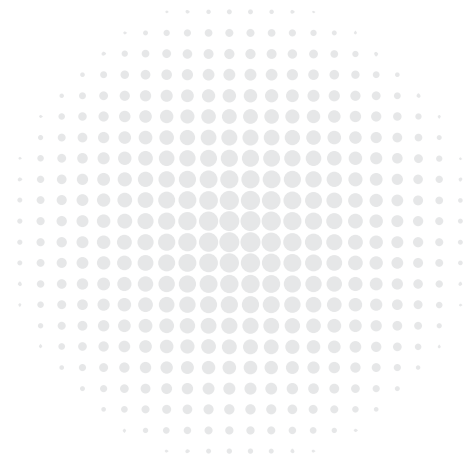
Jennifer will work in 'co-production' with customers, staff and family members to ensure their ideas are embedded into the design proposals for Bertha Park.

Jennifer, who has worked with Capability Scotland for the last ten years in various roles, said, "we want to put customers at the heart of everything we do and to ensure their voices and thoughts are heard.

"So this is exactly what my role will do. The role has been created to work directly with customers, staff and family members to gather real life opinions and thoughts that will shape and influence the design and service delivery at Bertha Park.

"Co-production is an inclusive approach to bring lived experiences into the decision making process. We will ensure customers, families and staff members - those who would like to - have the opportunity to share their thoughts with us at every step of the design process.

What will pavements and roads be like into town?





“We guarantee that the thoughts and wishes expressed by customers, staff and family members will be listened to and shared with the project board. That’s why we would love to hear any feedback on the design or any areas you’d like us to consider to meet your aspirations.”

The first activity of co-production is the replica - or ‘mock-up’ - of the proposed residential accommodation which has been purpose-built in the Theatre Room at Upper Springland. All customers and staff across the four services including the ancillary departments at Upper Springland will be encouraged to visit the mock-up and share their thoughts.

Due to coronavirus restrictions, drop-in times and dates for staff and customers will be scheduled in advance to allow each service the opportunity to safely visit the accommodation. Family members will also be invited to visit and Jennifer will make contact directly to make suitable arrangements.

There will be various ways to submit feedback: verbally to Jennifer during a mock-up visit; by emailing Jennifer at [Jennifer.Dalrymple@capability.scot](mailto:Jennifer.Dalrymple@capability.scot), or completing a feedback form which will be available to everyone in the theatre.

This is just the start of the co-production process and Jennifer is looking forward to working with you all as the project evolves.

**Will there be  
electric car  
charging points?**

our comments:

- Can we have a better laundry area?
- Can we have a better call system?
- We want a purpose built medication area?
- Changing rooms for staff
- better control for heating
- Will my independence be affected due to distance from town?
- I would love to see a mock flat
- Will there be access to gym + pool?
- Will we be near shops?
- I am excited to have a bigger room
- I want air conditioning
- What will the - be to do there?
- Will the meals be better?
- Can we have an art room?
- Can doorways be made bigger?
- Will we be charged for buses to  
on?
- I want the units +

## What You Said

Last year, everyone involved with Upper Springland had the chance to both learn about the project – and know that their initial feedback would be gathered and listened to.

We were pleased to see that feedback was positive, inquisitive, and with no objection to the proposed move from Upper Springland being recorded.

We've already outlined that there is strong support for the project, but there was also important feedback on how the project could be better designed. Those thoughts came from our engagement with customers, staff and families, via the likes of Comments Boxes and our research with Queen Margaret University

This included:

- A greater desire to live more independently, supported through the use of SMART technologies
- Accessible outdoor spaces
- Better access to life opportunities (such as creative, social and employment opportunities)
- Smaller groups within shared accommodation units

We were also delighted to receive backing from our strategic partners, these are the organisations that we need to work with to secure planning and to deliver the correct services.

Counsellor Eric Drysdale, Chair of P&K Integration Joint Board, Board Member NHS Tayside and Ward Councillor, Perth City Centre, said:

“The concept of a brand-new state-of-the-art complex to be built at Bertha Park is a really exciting opportunity. Crucially, the journey towards making this a reality will very much involve those who would live there or who would use the facilities, so together all stakeholders can work together to co-create the best living environment we can.”

This initial feedback – along with the all the findings we take from the co-production work to be developed – will allow us to build a new facility that truly delivers on our mission to create the highest quality services, tailored to the individual needs of our customers.

**Will there be  
electric car  
charging points?**



## CapabilityScotland

Capability Scotland delivers exemplary care, support, and education for disabled children and adults across Scotland.

We were founded in 1946 and have always strived to be a major ally in supporting disabled people to have full equality of opportunity and participation as citizens of Scotland.



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