

Transforming cruddas park

New Year 2008/9



It's started!

First phase of renewal scheme now on site

Anticipation is rising around the tower blocks as the first signs of physical change begin to appear.

Following several months of preliminary work, contractors from Wates Living Space are now arriving on site to begin the £31 million first phase of the project.

They'll be followed by cranes dropping off cabins on January 7 - and there'll be something of a spectacle on January 12 when a crane will hoist equipment on to the roof of each block.

The Hawthorns, The Larches and The Sycamores are being completely redeveloped over 21 months, with flats being made available for rent through Your Homes Newcastle.

"This is a major step forward in the West End's regeneration," said David Slater, Executive Director for Environment & Regeneration at Newcastle City Council. "The blocks will be a great place to live, with stunning views and green spaces - and all within walking distance of the city centre."

Later phases of the scheme, which could total £90m, will aim to provide homes for sale through the scheme's private sector partners, Gentoo and Bellway Homes.

The scheme is backed by Newcastle City Council, Bridging NewcastleGateshead, Your Homes Newcastle and New Deal for Communities, as well as private sector partners Gentoo, Bellway Homes and Wates Living Space.

Moving ahead!

The first phase in our six-year renewal scheme is set to last for 21 months, with The Hawthorns, The Larches and The Sycamores first on the list for a complete transformation.

The past few months have seen 'soft stripping' of the three blocks - that's the removal of asbestos, fixtures and fittings ready for the main work to start. And while contractors from Wates are getting down to work on site, other staff from our partnership are fine-tuning plans for other parts of the scheme.

A special study is looking into options for a greener, more efficient heating system, while the partners are also carrying out detailed technical work on options for the shopping centre and planning new ways to promote the area and give it a brand new image.

If you'd like to find out more, or you'd like to get more involved in the scheme, please contact the Your Homes Newcastle office in the shopping centre.

Also making progress...

The earth will soon be moving at the nearby Loadman Street site - to the west of the blocks, opposite Elswick Park. The New Year will see the first diggers on site, levelling the site in readiness for work to start on new workshop and office units in-mid 2009.

A later phase is set to bring a mix of family homes, flats and bungalows on the upper part of the site. The business scheme is backed by Priority Sites Ltd and Newcastle City Council.



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