

Non-traditional housing redevelopment newsletter

Merlin
Housing Society

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Jorge Cardoso and his father Jorge, Paula Da Silva and Nicola Batten in front of their former homes

First homes demolished

Work to provide modern new homes in Coalpit Heath has started with the demolition of the former properties.

Diggers moved onto the first site last month and have demolished six of the ten properties so far. The demolition marks the start of the first work on site for the eight-year project. And last month we invited some of the former residents of the properties and local councillors to visit the site before their old homes were knocked down.

Project Manager Sally Gilbert said: “It’s tremendously exciting that after all of the planning and consultations we’ve held with residents that we’re now actually working on site.

“We’ve submitted our planning application to build the new properties and now we’re waiting to hear whether the council will give us the go-ahead. As soon as it does, then we can begin building our project’s first new homes.”

In total we’re seeking permission to re-develop 32 properties in the village and replace them with 65 new homes. If we get planning permission, we’ll be aiming to start work on the first properties in Oldlands Avenue and Newlands Avenue later this summer.

Once this work is underway we will then aim to demolish the other properties in the programme in Willow Way, Oldlands Avenue, Bell Road and Ridings Road once we have rehoused everyone. We’ll

then be able to start building new properties on these sites as well.

Housing Officer Sarah Durbin said:
“We’re currently working with residents

in these properties to find them somewhere to move to when their homes are redeveloped. So far we’ve found new homes for 17 residents and are close to sorting out homes for the others.”

Residents view plans for Iron Acton redevelopment

Initial plans for the redevelopment of properties in Iron Acton have been shown to villagers.

Earlier in the spring we held three consultation events with villagers to give them the chance to have their say on the plans. We’re developing two sites in Iron Acton in Algars Drive and Chilwold Close to provide more than 25 modern, energy-efficient homes.

Visitors were able to view the plans and raise any issues with our staff plus those from Quattro Design Architects which produced the plans.

Project Manager Sally Gilbert said:
“We’d like to thank everyone who came along to the three events and had their say on the plans. We’re now reviewing everyone’s comments before finalising our proposals.



Quattro architect David Wint chats with a villager at the latest consultation event in Iron Acton

“We’re aiming to apply for planning permission to redevelop the properties later in the year. But before we do that we will give villagers the chance to view the final plans. We’ll announce details of this event in a few months time.”

We’re aiming to demolish the existing properties in Iron Acton in spring 2015, before starting building work on site later that summer.