



Work to start in Bicester town centre

23 January 2012

A joint project between Cherwell District Council and Sainsbury's which will transform Bicester town centre is set to start.

The redevelopment will see the construction of a new leisure and retail destination in the heart of Bicester town centre, creating approximately 600 new jobs in the local economy.

A range of new facilities will be provided by the project including:

- A new seven-screen Apollo cinema, incorporating the ability to host conferences and events using cinema screens for audiovisual presentations.
- A new Sainsbury's supermarket.
- Attractive public spaces complete with new public art.
- The creation of new shop, restaurant and cafés.
- A new bus interchange hub on Manorsfield Road.

Work will commence on Monday, 30 January and is expected to be complete by summer 2013.

The initial phase will involve demolition and ground works to prepare the site. Building is expected to start in Spring this year.

Councillor Norman Bolster, Cherwell's lead member for estates, said: "There are some big changes on the way for Bicester town centre and it's very exciting that we are poised to make a start on them."

Sainsbury's Project Manager, Paul Tyler said:

"We are delighted to now be at a stage where we can start construction and everyone can see for themselves that Bicester's new town centre facilities are really going to be built.

"Whilst there will obviously be some disruption during construction, we will be doing everything possible to minimise this. We hope that everyone will agree that it is worth it and will take the time to watch our progress in the coming months.

"The redevelopment is a fantastic opportunity for Bicester and will in the long term encourage more people to use the town centre and at the same time create hundreds of new jobs for local people.

Crown and Crown Walk car parks will close at midnight on Sunday, 29 January, as part of the redevelopment.

Alternative parking is available across Bicester where new disabled spaces have been introduced to replace some of those which will be lost.

Bus stops in Bure Place will also cease to operate after the last service on Sunday, 29 January, to enable the work to take place.

Replacement bus stops will be provided from Monday, 30 January, in Market Place for all services currently stopping at Bure Place except the X5 to Cambridge which will stop at North Street.

Oxfordshire County Council and bus operators will have staff in the town centre on the day of the change to help guide bus passengers to the new stops.

And the Bicester Shopmobility office the in Crown Walk car park will be relocated to Unit 2 Crown Walk while a new permanent office is built as part of the redevelopment.

Two dedicated Shopmobility spaces will be provided in Market Place for service users who will be individually informed of the changes.

All the latest information will be available on www.cherwell.gov.uk and anyone wishing to find out more information on the redevelopment should email Bicester@gka.co.uk or call the Sainsbury's community information line on 0845 6048853.

ENDS

For further information:

- William Wood / Paul Vicary at GKA, Sainsbury's public affairs representatives on 01296 678 300
- Cherwell District Council - Janet Ferris / Craig Forsyth on 01295 221 639.

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