

News

31.07.14

Construction under way on new Waitrose and John Lewis in Basingstoke

Work has started on site for a combined Waitrose supermarket and John Lewis at Home store at Basing View in Basingstoke.

Contractors Bowmer and Kirkland have been appointed by Muse Developments to construct the 110,000 sq ft development, which offers 73,000 sq ft of retail floor space.

Muse is Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council's development partner for Basing View - a £200 million regeneration scheme which will deliver around 650,000 sq ft of new commercial led development over 15 acres. Ultimately it will include a mix of new office space, a business class hotel, public realm and improved transport links, delivering a top class regional business destination on the M3 corridor.

The new building will house a 47,500 sq ft John Lewis at Home store as well as a 25,500 sq ft Waitrose food store and a customer café, with more than 400 customer parking spaces on site.

The new format store is only the second in the John Lewis Group portfolio and represents a major investment by the retailer in the town.

Mike Auger, regional director for Muse Developments, said: "The John Lewis and Waitrose store represents the Muse and Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council aspirations for enhancing Basing View and a strong statement of our intent to reinvigorate this area. The store provides a high quality retail amenity as well acting as a solid platform on which further exciting development can be based."

Waitrose Director of Development, Nigel Keen, added: "This is the culmination of not only the hard work we have put into developing the scheme with the council, residents and Muse, but a longer journey of exploring opportunities to bring Waitrose to Basingstoke.

"We are naturally delighted that work has started and to see the first phase of revitalising Basing View underway. It speaks volumes that Basingstoke continues to attract investment and we look forward to both Waitrose and John Lewis becoming part of the town's exciting future."

Cabinet Member for Property, Finance and Commissioning Cllr John Izett, commented: "This is an important new investment in our borough. The stores will attract more people and more businesses to Basing View and generate extra leisure and retail expenditure for the town.

"I am confident that the development will bring huge spin-off benefits, not least a gross value addition to the economy of the town of around £4.5 million per annum. Attracting such a high profile retailer to this gateway site, combined with the construction of the 150,000 square feet Network Rail campus making good progress at the eastern end, shows the growing confidence of major companies in Basing View's future success."

Contracts were exchanged with the John Lewis partnership in October 2013 and planning permission was secured in March 2014.

Construction is due to be completed in late 2015, with the store aiming to open before the end of

the year.