

WORK STARTS ON NEW TOWN CENTRE DEVELOPMENT THAT

£22m scheme will the town

WORK has officially started on a £22m regeneration scheme that is set to transform a former north Derbyshire mining town and create hundreds of new jobs.

The ambitious New Bridge Street regeneration scheme will see a new Tesco superstore, other retail units, a bus station and a link road created in Clay Cross.

Before construction work on the new buildings begins, work is taking place to remove more than 100,000 cubic metres of spoil – which has stood in the town centre for many years.

This is expected to take three to four months to complete, with the Tesco store due to open in February 2011.

The project is being led by developers, GMI Property Company, in partnership with NE Derbyshire District Council and Clay Cross Parish Council.

Cllr Peter Riggott, NEDDC's Member Champion for the regeneration of Clay Cross, said: "It's fantastic to see work starting on site – this is a

by
Helen Beighton

hugely exciting time and the beginning of a new era for Clay Cross."

The second phase of the scheme, which will create a new health centre and retail units, is due to begin later this year.

Peter Gilman, chairman of GMI Group, said that the planning that has gone into the project has been "immense" and they are "delighted" to see the diggers finally in action.

'Regeneration'

"I grew up not far from Clay Cross, so the regeneration of the town centre means a lot to me both personally and professionally," he added.

More than £9m of the scheme's funding has come from emda – East Midlands Development Agency – and the

Homes and Communities Agency (HCA).

Diana Gillespy, emda's executive director of regeneration, said: "Our investment is helping to breathe new life into this former mining town so that people in the area can enjoy new employment opportunities, an improved environment and better local facilities.

Margaret Allen, regional director for the HCA East Midlands, said that the project will significantly boost the town's retail offer and help to attract more business into Clay Cross.

"Our skills arm of the HCA is working closely with the council in maximising the knock-on effect for the town," she added.

For updates about the regeneration of Clay Cross, visit the website at www.clay-cross2020.org.uk



● **Work starts:** Cllr Graham Baxter, leader of North East Derbyshire District Council; Peter Gilman, chairman of the GMI Group of companies; Cllr David Nuttall, former North East Derbyshire District Council leader and Clay Cross member – who led the launch of the Clay Cross regeneration project – and Cllr Peter Riggott, NEDDC's member champion for the regeneration scheme.