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CLAY CROSS TOWN CENTRE REGENERATION ACHIEVES LIFT OFF

The long awaited redevelopment of Clay Cross town centre has been given the final go-ahead – which means in just over three years parish residents and visitors to Clay Cross will have a totally revitalised and reinvigorated town centre.

The £20 million-plus development – hailed by North East Derbyshire District Council as the key to the area’s economic regeneration – will dramatically redesign the existing town centre, create new retail areas and generally improve the visual atmosphere within Clay Cross.

Key features of the project include the construction of a large Tesco supermarket and other retail units, a modern medical centre, creation of a new bus station for the town, provision of new affordable housing stock and major improvements to the existing road network in the town. The overall town centre environment will also be improved through traffic calming measures, pedestrianised areas and new public conveniences.

“The Clay Cross regeneration scheme will give a massive boost to the area’s pride, confidence and economic performance,” said Peter Gilman, Chairman of GMI Rovinian Ltd, the company - in partnership with NEDDC - masterminding the development project, and a Derbyshire man born and bred.

“For years, the lack of strong and attractive retail opportunities in the town centre has driven local residents to shop outside the area – a recent survey showed that only 30% of Clay Cross residents shopped for food in the town. This is obviously detrimental to the economic potential, development and performance of the town.

“By creating a new retail centre, anchored by a major Tesco supermarket, we will be bringing the missing 70% back to Clay Cross – and with them, a huge influx of spending power and opportunities for the existing retailers in the town. I admit I have a vested interest in seeing Clay Cross thrive once again. As someone from the local area and with my father and brother still resident at the family farm, I am fired with enthusiasm at the prospects this project will bring the town.”

The Tesco supermarket and other retail units will be situated along a new link road between Bridge Street and the A61. The area is currently occupied by a number of industrial units and is also dominated by slag heaps and spoil tips of the town’s coal mining past. A number of car parks – as well as improvements to the road network - will be created to make access to the town centre easier and more convenient, aiding increased retail use and business for the town.

The 20 acre development will also include a new surgery designed to provide modern, leading-edge medical facilities for the local GP practice led by doctors Stavros Neofytou, Philip Jackson and Michael Green.

Initial work on the project to level and decontaminate the spoil tips and surrounding area has already. Full development, which will take 15 months, will commence after the compulsory purchase order process is complete.

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