

Members of Buildwas PC and I meet with Claire Biddle (planner from Harworth ) and David Cockcroft (Director of Harworth and lead on this development) to discuss Progress and the proposals

Harworth reiterated that they are looking at around at 1000 homes across the site together with leisure and commercial uses, and a village centre.

Key to these proposals is the railway line, which could be used for both leisure and commuting purposes. Harworth have been busy behind the scenes talking to various rail groups and Network Rail (who own the railway line beyond the site) about how this might be achieved.

There are some maintenance aspects that need to be addressed on the line and the Albert Edward Bridge but Harworth would like to use the railway line to remove demolition arisings, the pulverised fuel ash (PFA) and possibly sand and gravel (from the safeguarded area under the green field land).

Newt ponds

The PC and I visited the 20 newt mitigation ponds which have been constructed in an 9 hectare plot (approximately 20 acres) which sits to the very south of the green field part of the site. This area sits under the wood and I took several pictures which hopefully will be put on the website.

The area is due to be planted up with appropriate vegetation to ensure a suitable habitat for the newts when they are relocated from the power station. The newts will be relocated in accordance with a licence granted to Harworth by Natural England and they will be settled in before Harworth start demolition in any areas that might affect them.

The newt mitigation area will not be included as part of any future developable area.

Demolition

Harworth are still working on appointing a demolition contractor but hope to have this agreed by early March. David told us that the contract for demolition will go to the next board meeting on the 26th February.

Once the contractor is in place, demolition work should start within a couple of months. At this stage Harworth think the towers will come down early next year but that is to be confirmed. The contractors will be required to follow strict rules about HGV routing (i.e. avoiding Buildwas and Much Wenlock ) they will be required to use only the bypass and Harworth will have a record of all HGVs leaving the site with loads relating to the demolition works. Harworth will pass on contact details of the demolition site manager to the PC and Town Council once they are appointed. This information will also be on their website.

Consultation and planning process

Given the timing of Easter and school holidays this year, Harworth will most likely run the next public exhibition towards the end of May. When Harworth have more details of this, Harworth will publicise the date to the Parish Councils and stakeholders as well as local residents. Harworth are intending to submit the outline planning application in the late summer. We should have more detail on this by the next public exhibition.

Harworth have asked to meet with myself and Buildwas PC again before the public exhibition and then also prior to planning being submitted.