

# Work is under way

CONSTRUCTION has begun at the Square, Hale Barns, with the new Booths supermarket expected to open early in 2015.

At a ground-breaking event last Thursday, the Mayor of Trafford, Cllr Dylan Butt, executive member for economic growth and prosperity, Cllr Michael Hyman and ward councillor, Bernard Sharp, joined developers Laurence Martin of Development Securities, Adam Gross of Citybranch and Graham Booth, MD of Booths, to celebrate the start of the development.

Construction at the site is due to be completed by October next year, with the flagship Booths store set to open the following March.

The £30 million scheme will include a cafe, between 10 and 15 shops and 24 luxury one and two-bedroom apartments.

Mr Martin said: "They're going to be aimed mainly at first time buyers and downsizers.

"There are a lot of what can be called 'empty-nesters' who would probably like to downsize, but would also like to keep a foothold in the area."

The scheme was held up for two years because three businesses - Hale Barns Post Office, Admirals fish and chip shop and Hale Barns Tandoori - refused to move out.



An artist's impression of the new Booths store

However, after a public inquiry in February, Secretary of State Eric Pickles rubber-stamped planning inspector Mel Middleton's recommendation to grant compulsory purchase orders for the three businesses, allowing for construction to begin.

It had been feared Hale Barns would be left without a post office, but Cllr Hyman and Mr Martin told Messenger they believe the former postmaster has taken over the Best One store, also on Hale Road, and hopes to open a Post Office counter in the shop.

Cllr Hyman said: "I am really hopeful that a solution can be found, it is important this community is served by a post office."

Development will be 'a landmark'

■ Cllr Bernard Sharp said: "This has been my dream for many years. Residents have wanted to see progress for so long and now finally can see it."

■ Cllr Dylan Butt said: "As a local councillor, I, along with my colleagues, have always supported the much-needed development of the Square which would be appealing to the majority of local residents and become a landmark for Hale Barns to be proud of for years to come."

■ Cllr Michael Hyman said: "This is great news for Hale Barns, and I am pleased construction is now under way. The Square will create more than 100 jobs and provide a new place to shop, eat and socialise. I look forward to its completion and enjoyment by many people."

■ Graham Booth, director of Booths Supermarkets said: "We are delighted to be opening a new store in Hale Barns, building on the success in the region of our Media City store. After many years of aspiration, we have finally got the green light to begin to create a store in Hale Barns we hope will provide the very best locally-sourced produce in this prestigious location."

■ Laurence Martin, project director, Development Securities PLC said: "The redevelopment of The Square has been eagerly awaited by local residents, and with construction now under way, we look forward to delivering The Square for many to enjoy."

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