

Walsall Town Centre Delivery Update October 2017

The below is an updated extract from pages 9-10 of the Regeneration Portfolio Report which was published as part the papers for Walsall Council 18th September 2017. The text has been amended to present the schemes in the same order as the AAP Investment Chapter and AAP site references have been added for clarity.

The whole report is available to view at:

<https://cmispublic.walsall.gov.uk/cmis/Meetings/tabid/70/ctl/ViewMeetingPublic/mid/397/Meeting/2513/Committee/357/SelectedTab/Documents/Default.aspx>

AAPINV2: St Matthew's Quarter

"Following demolition works, The Quarter [TC03] redevelopment by developer Norton & Proffit is nearing completion in the St Matthews area of the town centre. The £14m retail scheme will provide over 8,000sqm of new floorspace, with the first units now occupied and operated by Poundland and B&M. [The Entertainer toyshop is also due to open by the end of October]. In total the scheme is estimated to bring in an excess of 300 new jobs to this part of the town centre which has already benefited from the major investment in the Old Square Development [TC02 and TC03]."

AAPINV3: Walsall Gigaport

"Work continues to bring development sites forward within Gigaport; building on strong developer interest in sites such as the former Jabez Cliff site [TC37], the Challenge Block in Hatherton Street (TC41), and the remaining plots within the Jhoots site [TC430]. Planning consent has been awarded for a residential scheme at Teddesley Street with Walsall Housing Group due to start on site this autumn."

Note: Planning permission was also granted on the 6th October for Wisemore Central [TC55] – a £9million scheme which includes a 60-bed hotel, restaurant, and retail/commercial uses, and would create more than 100 jobs when complete (17/0653). The developer has secured Travelodge and McDonalds for the hotel and restaurant operators and is in discussions to secure further pre-lets of the remaining units.

AAPINV4: Walsall Waterfront

"To complement the £12m Walsall Waterfront [TC10] cinema and restaurant development, the developer - Kier Property – have completed phase two of the project, which will provide a further four restaurants to the already successful Waterfront development. These are scheduled to officially open in next few months and will create further jobs in addition to the 250 jobs already created.

The Waterfront area has also seen the refurbishment of Wharfingers Cottage into a new restaurant and created 25 jobs. These developments have enhanced Walsall Waterfront as a leisure destination and widened the evening economy of the town centre.

Also at Waterfront, the former LEX site [TC08], has benefitted from Local Growth funding with £150,000 of site remediation works having recently been completed. Options to redevelop the site for commercial use are now being considered. "

AAPINV5: Park Street Shopping Core

“The acquisition of the Saddlers Centre (TC04), as part of our growing retail investment portfolio, provides the Council with a real point of control to proactively support regeneration in the town centre and enhance the key gateways at Station Street, Park Street and Bradford Place.”

AAPINV6: Secondary Development Sites

[A good example of a Secondary Development site is Station Street (TC17) and the Council] *“is working with land owners and the Homes & Communities Agency on redevelopment proposals for the site, which will seek to improve the sites connectivity and gateway location next to Walsall Rail Station and the Waterfront area.”*