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Foundations laid for a better future

The £23 million innovative regeneration of the Hillside Meadway and Valley Road area of Stoke Heath has hit a key milestone as work to lay the first foundations started this week.

The revolutionary regeneration project that will transform the area into one of Coventry's most popular addresses began this week when family-owned builders, Wates, started work on the first of 269 new homes.

The Whitefriars and Wates' redevelopment is set to take around four years to complete. Work to begin the building of the new properties follows the demolition of 130 properties last year.

Plans for the new estate include both private and social housing. Twenty five per cent of the new properties will be for Whitefriars' tenants.

Robert Gilder is one local resident welcoming the start on site. The 47-year-old's property backs onto what will be the first set of new homes.

He said: "I'm over the moon. It is great work has started and I'm sure it will be welcomed by others in the area. We've waited around five years for this and it's good the builders are now on site.

"I think it is excellent news for the area and I'm hoping we'll soon have some good neighbours."

The start of work followed months of activity behind the scenes to enable the redevelopment to take place, concluding last week with the official transfer of the land from Whitefriars Housing Group to Wates.

Wates' director Steve Peters said: "The foundations we're laying today mark the beginning of a whole new community within Coventry. We're delighted to have reached this important milestone and look forward to developing a flourishing and prosperous location for everyone to enjoy."

John Halton, assistant director at Whitefriars, said: "This is a key milestone for the area and a sign that things are moving forward. The past year has seen a lot of action behind the scenes but now the machinery and workmen have moved onto the site residents will be able to physically see the work we've been striving so hard to achieve."

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