

The Green, Belbroughton - Agreement:

The Parish Council would like to inform you that, at long last, the agreement has been signed with the Developer for use of The Green (*the Village Green*) in connection with the new housing to be built on the old Jewellery Factory site.

Work will begin straightway.

Rowanmoor Trustees and Mr & Mrs Mason, who own that site, had planning permission to build 12 houses there, and of course demolished the factory buildings in 2013. A number of the houses will look out over The Green towards the High St, and so the line of trees that used to shield the blank wall of the jewellery factory needs to be felled, with the consent of the Parish Council. The Developer plans to carry out the felling this week, as part of beginning construction. He also plans to run drainage from the new development under the Green to join the sewer in the High St. For these 'Rights' he has paid the Parish Council £20,000 plus our legal costs (£10,300), plus £1500 as the estimated cost of replanting The Green as provided for in the current planning permission.

The agreement is for the drainage construction work on The Green to be completed within six weeks of its beginning, and for full restoration of its site, including resurfacing the path up the centre of the Green, The wider re-planting is to be carried out within 12 months of the felling of the trees. The Parish Council will now undertake this re-planting. The scheme incorporated in the planning permission reflects the ideas included in a public consultation in 2013. It provides a good starting point, but the Council is very aware that there were differing views at that time about what the new shape of The Green should be, so we will be consulting again shortly, with a view to gaining a revised permission, if needed. Permission is needed because The Green is in the Conservation Area.

The Council supported the principles of the housing scheme, and we believe all residents will be delighted to see the end of the eyesore that the factory site has been for too long. We look forward to the opportunity to improve the appearance and use of The Green, which will of course continue to be open space for the benefit of the whole community.

Full details of the original planning application are available on the Bromsgrove District Council website: <https://publicaccess.bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=documents&keyVal=LJLONODP3S000>