

News

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Bournemouth's Town Centre Vision gathers pace with £27 million housing project



A turf-cutting ceremony has heralded the start of a £27 million development creating more than 100 high-quality homes for rent in the heart of Bournemouth.

Berry Court in St Peter's Road involves the replacement of an underused Bournemouth Council-owned surface car park with 113 one, two and three-bedroom apartments for the private rental market alongside new multi-level public and residents' parking.

The project marks the latest phase in the realisation of Bournemouth Council's long-term Town Centre Vision which has a focus on new homes as part of the town's economic regeneration.

The housing will be developed by Vision partner the Bournemouth Development Company in partnership with Radian Group.

Councillor John Beesley, Leader of Bournemouth Council, said: "Attracting new residents to come and live in the town centre is an essential part of the Vision. Berry Court will help us accelerate the delivery of much-needed new homes while safeguarding public parking. This combination of activities will boost regeneration and secure long-term economic growth."

Duncan Johnston, Development Director of Bournemouth Development Company, said: "In what has been a co-operative team success, many people have been working in partnership to get us to the point where we are ready to start on site. We're delighted to have achieved financial closure and be on the ground now starting this important rejuvenation project for Bournemouth."

On completion, the apartments will be available for rent to fulfil a recognised demand from people who are saving towards, or do not wish to commit to, owner occupation, or who simply prefer the flexibility and lifestyle choice of renting a home close to the centre of town. The apartments will be owned by Radian Group and delivered through its lettings brand livelikeSMART.

Lindsay Todd, Chief Executive of Radian Group, said: "We are really looking forward to partnering on Berry Court and providing tenants with an attractive high-quality living environment. It's a project that we believe will bring a host of benefits to Bournemouth town centre and those people looking for the option of renting locally. Our new SMART brand recognises the need for quality homes backed by a quality landlord."

As well as relocating all 155 public spaces the current surface car park offers, the new multi-decked parking will house spaces for use by the new flats.

The two-year build will be led by the Poole division of main contractor Morgan Sindall Construction & Infrastructure.

Andy Duff, Regional Managing Director, said: "By enhancing the town centre's residential provision, this regeneration project represents an important investment in the future of Bournemouth. The construction will also create employment opportunities as we will be looking to source trades and labour from the local supply chain as far as possible."

Among other local companies involved in the scheme are the Bournemouth planning consultancy Terence O'Rourke and the Fordingbridge architectural practice BrightSpace.

The Bournemouth Development Company has already delivered 64 apartments through the Citrus Building at Horseshoe Common, award-winning student accommodation at Madeira Road for Arts University Bournemouth and the Madeira Road multi-storey public car park overlooking Wessex Way.

ENDS

Note to editors

Picture caption -

ON SITE. Marking the start of the £27 million public-private housing project at the former Berry Court car park on St Peters Road, Bournemouth. L-r: Councillor David d'Orton-Gibson, Bournemouth Council member representative on the Bournemouth Development Company board; Councillor Jane Kelly, Bournemouth Cabinet member for regeneration and public health; Radian Group Chief Executive Lindsay Todd and Managing Director of Morgan Sindall Investments, Lisa Scenna.

The Bournemouth Development Company is a partnership between Bournemouth Council and Morgan Sindall Investments. As delivery partner for the Town Centre Vision, The Bournemouth Development Company is working to redevelop council-owned land assets in the town. Under the partnership, the Council invests land assets including car parks when development is imminent and Morgan Sindall Investments provides cash. Both partners maintain a 50% share in the partnership and the profits arising, with the share of profits reinvested in new sites, infrastructure and open space. For more information, visit www.bournemouthdevelopmentcompany.com.

Eastleigh-based Radian Group is an award-winning organisation, providing more than 20,000 affordable homes in Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, Dorset, Hampshire, Isle of Wight, Surrey, Sussex and Wiltshire. It employs more than 900 staff and is one of the largest registered providers in the south of England. The organisation works with a growing range of local authority partners to help them meet their strategic objectives. SMART is the premium lettings service brought to you by Radian Group. SMART's management service is of a very high standard not normally offered by private landlords. Our homes offer contemporary and stylish interiors, designed to be both practical and comfortable. For more information, visit www.radian.co.uk or www.livelikessmart.co.uk.

Morgan Sindall Construction & Infrastructure is the construction, infrastructure and design division of Morgan Sindall Group plc, a leading UK construction and regeneration group. With a turnover of more than £2 billion, the Group works on all kinds of public and private sector projects from small scale fit-outs and utilities to major urban regeneration schemes. Morgan Sindall Construction & Infrastructure aims to create great results for customers and partners by providing expertise across a broad range of market sectors. For more information, visit www.morgansindall.com.

Media enquiries to Scott Sinclair, Deep South Media, on 01202 534487, 07500 796666 or by email to scott.sinclair@deepsouthmedia.co.uk.