

New Shops



Demolitions



New Community Facilities



Public Consultation



Grant Funding



Resident Engagement



New Housing



New Parks

New Primary Schools



Over a  
Decade of  
Change

Investing in  
North Solihull

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# Regeneration: Before and After









# New Homes

The wards of Chelmsley Wood, Smiths Wood and parts of Kingshurst were originally developed to a largely Radburn layout. Vehicles and pedestrians were segregated in a 'back-to-front' layout with housing reversing onto streets and front doors opening onto semiprivate and public spaces. High-rise flats were developed with pockets of open space. Whilst housing densities were high, a uniform system of development evolved lacking in character, identity and diversity. The challenge facing Solihull Council and its partners was to reverse this decline and to secure sustainable change and benefits for North Solihull.

## Facts



£226.6m total investment



1700 new homes



50% affordable housing



887 poor quality houses demolished

Typical 'Radburn' housing layout



Oaklands, 2011

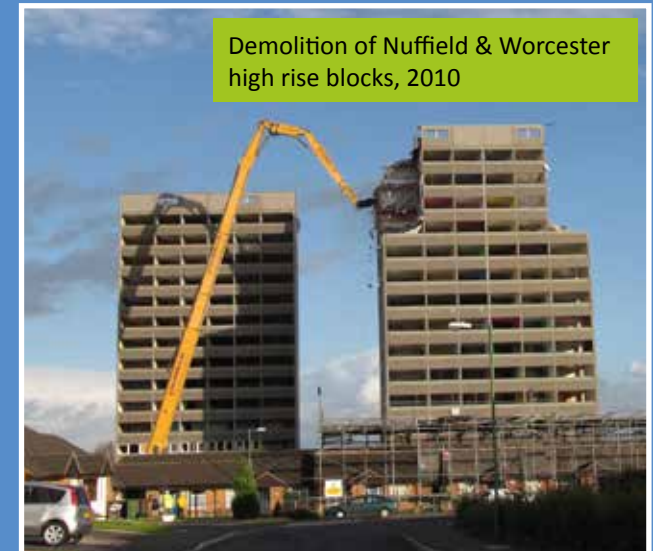
- Demolition of 5 high rise tower blocks
- Quality family homes for local residents
- Constructed to Code for Sustainable Homes
- Broad range of new homes for sale and rent

Oxford Grove & Alcott Grove in Chelmsley Wood were the first new homes to be built in the area for quite a few years and proved so popular half of the development sold 'off plan'.



Oxford Grove, 2006

Demolition of Nuffield & Worcester high rise blocks, 2010



**Digby Court** is a development of new homes built by Bellway on the former site of Bishop Wilson Primary School, off Pike Drive. Chris and Zoe Dingley are the proud owners of a new three-bedroom, semi-detached house within the development.

Chris said: "We love our new home. Our preference was a new-build home, mainly because I work different hours, and I didn't want to have to do a lot of work to the house when we moved in. With a new-build, everything is ready from day one, which was really appealing.

"Having grown up not too far away, I know the area well and the regeneration work has completely changed the area. Chelmsley Wood used to have a reputation as not a great area to live, but the work that Bellway has done along with everybody else has completely transformed it into a fantastic community."

**Fillingham Court** is a smart new apartment block specifically designed for people aged over 55. Resident Carol Panton (pictured right) moved into one of the apartments in 2015.

She said: I saw these flats being built and was really impressed, they have put a lot of thought into them.

"I love it here. It is modern, warm and really comfortable. There is lots of space, all the rooms are big and the doors are wide to make it easier for people who may need to use a wheelchair. I've got a nice balcony, and the surrounding grounds are very attractive and well looked after.

"They have a social club here which organises activities such as bingo, coffee afternoons, barbecues and outings. There's a big communal hall where you can just go in and have a natter. There is a real sense of mutual support and community.

I think the regeneration scheme is doing a lot for the area. There's the new medical centre, shops, schools and a café all on our doorstep.

"There's been new houses going up too so there are places for sale as well as rent, which I think is a good thing – it makes for a more mixed community. It's nice to see so much being done to revitalise the area."



Fillingham Court, 2015



BEFORE

The Local Public House  
in Arran Way, Smith's  
Wood



Montford Rise & Woodlands Green Park, 2016

New homes integrated  
with parks and open  
spaces providing  
valuable local amenities  
for all ages. Homes  
constructed to Homes &  
Communities Design &  
Quality Standards.



AFTER

New Apartments, Henley Grange, 2010



Forest Oak, 2017







# New Primary Schools

Regenerating North Solihull was never just about building new houses. The challenge of improving the education of children across the community was at the heart of this significant and innovative project. It has helped to fund brand new primary schools across Smith's Wood, Kingshurst & Fordbridge and Chelmsley Wood by reinvesting the money raised from selling new homes.

The plan was to replace 15 Junior and Infant schools with 10 newly built or remodelled primary schools, fit for the 21st Century, creating high quality teaching environments which will include 'fully integrated' extended services for children and young families across the community. The North Solihull Partnership has delivered six brand new primary schools with a seventh at the planning stage.

Bishop Wilson, 2013



Bishop Wilson Church of England Primary School was officially opened by the Mayor in July 2014. Funded by the regeneration project and the Birmingham C of E Diocese, it not only provides education for local 3 – 11 year olds but is also home to a new church, an adult learning centre and community facilities. Headteacher Jon Kirk said: "So many opportunities are opening up for our children since we moved to Chelmund's Cross. It is great to be at the centre of our community and with our fantastic facilities our children can learn in so many different ways. Our school is also frequently used by other community clubs and we are very pleased to be hosting Chelmund's Day again this year. Our children love having our church on site which is made larger by moving our partitioned walls each week to create a wonderful space. This same space accommodates trampolining and dinner time activities later in the day. All these things help make our children proud of their school and proud of their community."

## Facts



£52m total investment



6 new primary schools



4,095 primary school places



Key Stage 2 & 4 educational improvements

- Kingshurst Primary, 2008
- Smith's Wood Community Primary, 2009
- St Anne's Catholic Primary, 2011
- Bishop Wilson Church of England Primary, 2013
- Coleshill Heath Primary, 2015
- Fordbridge Primary, 2015
- 3 further schools are being extensively remodelled to achieve up to date quality standards to ESFA Part 6

St Anne's Catholic Primary, 2011



**Fordbridge Community Primary School**, which opened in September 2015 and takes 2-11-year-olds, was built on the site of the former Bennetts Well School in Crabtree Drive.

Headteacher Rob Fletcher said: "There was a whole 'visioning project' involving all the staff, children and the community about what we wanted the school's ethos and culture to be, based on what would be most beneficial to the community and education in this area.

"It was built so that every classroom has access to the outdoors, we have wide 'enquiry hubs' instead of narrow corridors and as much natural light in the building as possible. It is also a community hub – we have clubs that run throughout the year and Solihull College uses it for different courses.

"It has made a difference to pupils' behaviour, attendance and self-esteem, and to parents' self-esteem and confidence – they just feel good about the school because it is a great building. It is a real success story."

From being in special measures in 2012, Ofsted inspectors rated the school 'good' with 'outstanding' early years education in 2016. It was also West Midlands Regional Finalist in the Civic Trust Awards 2017 for 'Buildings that have made a difference to the community'.

Headgirl Louise Roberts, aged 10, said: "I love everything about the school. The lessons are fun, everyone is very kind and overall it is a great school."

Headboy Kyle Evans, also 10, said: "I like the Multi-Use Games Area, the big hall, the wide corridors and the fact that you can get outside easily. The old school was quite cramped and you had to walk across the car park to get to the dining hall, but it is all connected here and everything is really easy to get to."



2015



Fordbridge School - Kian Ollis (10), Shaylee Brown (10), Mr Rob Fletcher (Headteacher) and Councillor Joe Tildesley

BEFORE



Kingshurst Junior School



Fully integrated extended services at all new schools.

AFTER



Kingshurst Primary School, 2008 (combined 2 form entry)

2008



Children at Kingfisher Primary getting ready for the start of the development of their new school







# New Village Centres

Two new urban Village Centres have been created. Each have distinct identities serving local residents; including shops, office accommodation, schools, residential, community and health facilities, creating central hubs at the heart of the community.

## Chelmund's Cross Village Centre

has been designed to increase employment and business opportunities. It replaces an old run-down precinct known as Craig Croft. As well as a new primary school, Bishop Wilson CofE Primary, and a new church the Village Centre includes:

## Facts



£49.7m total investment



2 new village centres



12 new retail outlets



£6.7m grant funding

The Enterprise Centre & new Chester Road junction, 2014



- New retail facilities, which opened during 2017, include a Co-operative food store, a Co-op funeral service and two further retail outlets
- Improvements to the Baptist Church which now includes a café and refurbished gardens
- A Toucan crossing replaced a subway which has provided a safer crossing for pedestrians and cyclists and opened up the village centre to a greater number of users
- The creation of a new high street & public spaces which will allow public events such as markets and live entertainment to be held
- Improved car parking, bus routes and secure bicycle parking

The **Enterprise Centre**, which opened in 2014, has fast become a hub for local businesses. The ground floor provides touchdown space with six 'hot desks', two seminar rooms which open into a larger space holding up to 40 people, and a lounge area for informal meetings. Upstairs are offices for 21 tenants who benefit from a welcoming reception area, free wifi, superfast broadband, visitor car parking, cycle storage, shower facilities and easy access to nearby motorway links and main local routes, being close to the M42, NEC and Birmingham International Airport. The Enterprise Centre now has 13 tenants, with over 80 people working in the building, and its 'Enterprise for Success' programme – which offers free support to potential entrepreneurs – has so far helped 50 new businesses get off the ground across the region.



The old subway at Craig Croft



**The Croft Medical Centre**, which opened in 2015, incorporates GPs, a dental surgery and pharmacy providing excellent primary care services for years to come.



New 73 bed specialist care home opens, October 2017



**The Rev Neil Roberts**, Minister of Chelmsley Wood Baptist Church for more than 20 years, has been involved in consultation on North Solihull's regeneration programme since the earliest discussions.

Over the last eight years the church has been transformed into Three Trees – a thriving community centre at the heart of the new Chelmsley Cross Village Centre – complete with a garden, eye-catching artwork and a variety of rooms for use by local groups.

With the help of support and initial architectural plans from North Solihull Regeneration Partnership, over £1 million has been raised to refurbish and extend the old church.

Neil said: "The old building had a leaking roof, rotten wood, the windows were falling out and the heating didn't work – it was bordering on derelict. But we have all pulled together and now it is a fantastic community place used by lots of groups and organisations. The area around us included lots of 1960s buildings, like the row of shops where quite a few of them were empty and shuttered up. It was very grim, depressing and run-down.

"But the regeneration has made a real difference to the area, delivering more housing, new schools and better facilities such as the medical centre.

"In the early days of consultation, there was a natural resistance to change – local people have a deep sense of pride in the area and were suspicious of what it might mean for their community. But, through the consultation and regeneration process, people have come together and we have a more joined-up community now."



The new Co-op foodstore, 2017



The old precinct at Craig Croft



## Smith's Wood Village Centre

has a new primary school, Smith's Wood Community Primary which opened to pupils in 2009 and incorporates Smith's Wood Parish Council and a gym. A new high street was constructed which provides parking spaces and allows easy access for buses as well as new public realm for pedestrians.

- There are eight retail outlets, which include a bakery, hairdressers, a fish & chip shop, Quids In, Spar shop & Post Office
- **Elmwood Place, 2014** Incorporates community facilities, including a library, meeting rooms & touchdown space with office accommodation occupied by Solihull Council above
- **Centric Mews 2015**, 26 private & 26 affordable new homes have been built on the site of two demolished tower blocks
- **Aviary House, 2015** an assisted living scheme of 28 apartments, providing 24 hour care and support
- In February 2017 planning permission was granted to build a new health centre



Creation of new High Street & public realm, 2009

**Kewal Singh Paul** has run the new Spar shop in Smith's Wood, built as part of the regeneration project, since August 2014.

He said: "The regeneration has been a positive thing for the whole community – there are new houses, schools and a lot of investment in the area generally, which benefits everybody.

"Ours is a family business, run by my wife and myself. We also employ three full-time staff and 13 part-time staff, 90% of whom are local people.

"Business is good. We all work together as a team, so the staff are helping our business while we are providing opportunities for them as individuals and employment for the area as a whole."



The Spar & Post Office, opened August 2014

BEFORE

Nuffield House



New shops,  
offices and  
community  
facilities.



Elmwood Place, 2014



The old precinct at Arran Way

Nuffield & Worcester high rise were demolished in 2010 to make way for a new housing Development, Centric Mews.

AFTER



Centric Mews, 2015



Aviary House, Assisted Living Scheme, 2015

*Both of these  
village centres  
have been  
part funded by  
the European  
Development  
Fund.*





## Chelmund's Cross



June 2012 - SMBC grants full planning permission for new £30m Village Centre at Craig Croft



September 2013 - the new £10m Bishop Wilson School opens to pupils



June 2014 - progress on phase 1 of the regeneration of Chelmunds Cross total cost £9.1m



The dual carriageway on the Chester Road is reduced to a single lane with a new junction 40mph speed limit



January 2015 - phase 2 work on the new £3m health centre, opens to patients November 2015



After undergoing extensive refurbishment Three Trees Community Baptist Church includes a cafe & gardens



October 2016 - progress on the new Co-operative foodstore & retail units



September 2016 - ground-breaking on the new specialist care home

## Smith's Wood



2008 - building work starts on the new £7m Smiths Wood Community Primary School



April 2009 - construction of new high street, Burton's Way, begins



September 2009 - Smiths Wood Community Primary School opens to pupils



July 2011 - SMBC grants full planning permission for new retail & office accommodation



April 2014 - building work complete & first shops open, total cost £5.665 million



April 2014 - new residential development of 26 homes (50% affordable) Centric Mews, fully occupied in 2015

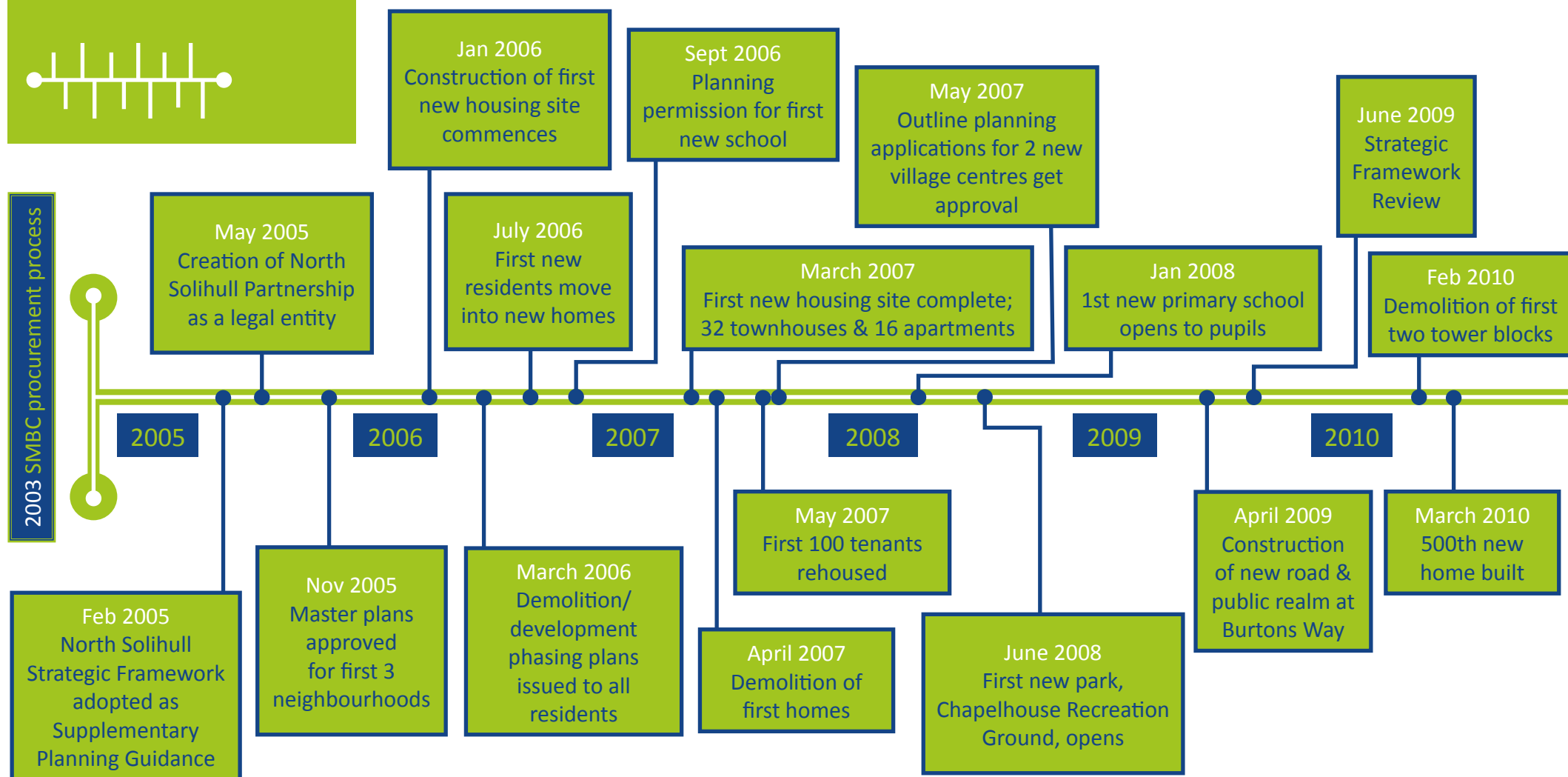


June 2014 - construction of assisted living accommodation begins & opens to residents in June 2015

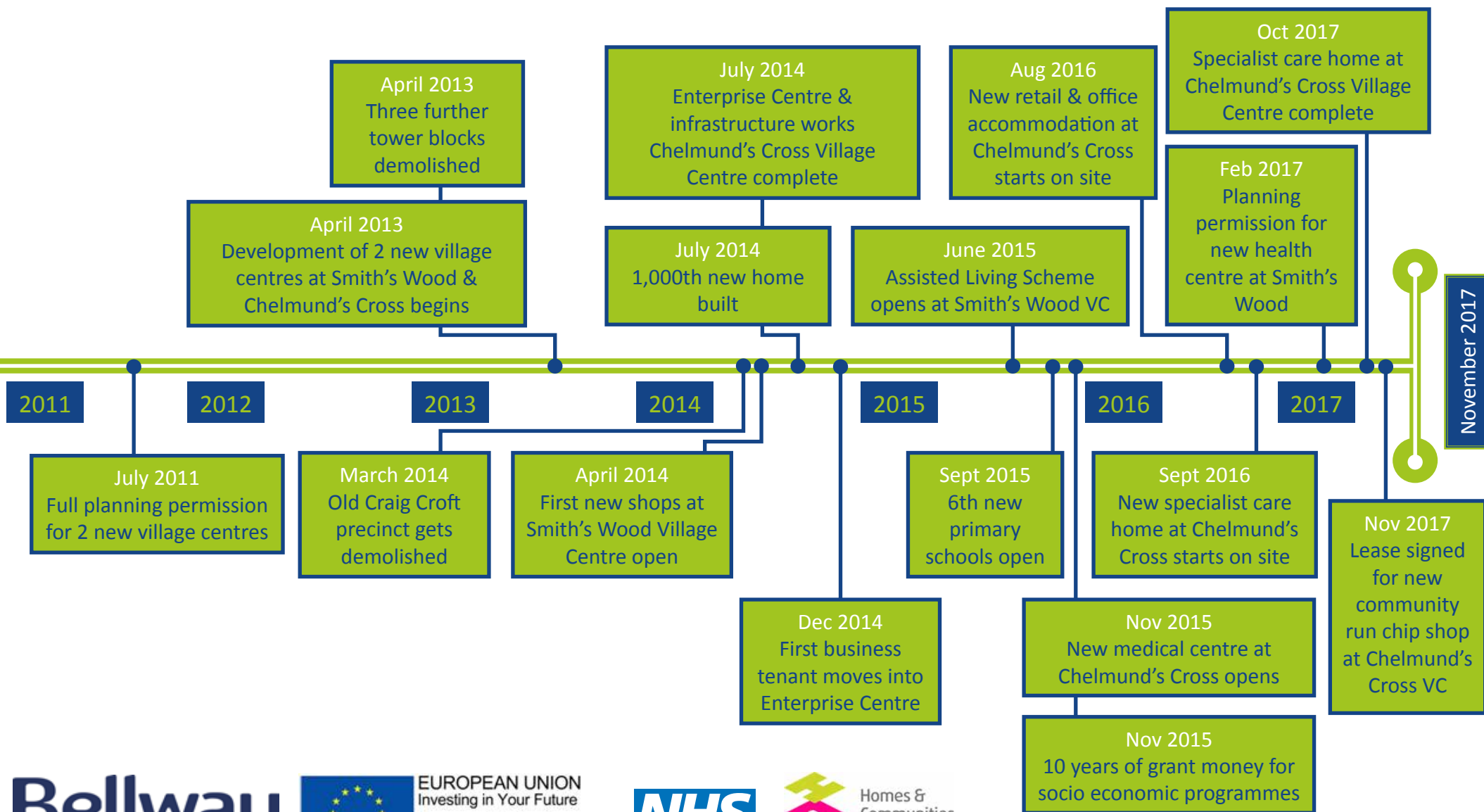


February 2017 - planning permission granted for new health centre

# Timeline







# Parks & Open Spaces

NSP committed to improve the green space in the North of the Borough to make it useable and accessible for residents of all ages. When building on under-utilised green space, the loss in the quantity of the area has been replaced with improved quality by measuring this against a nationally recognised green space assessment. There is also a requirement for each household to be within 400m of Neighbourhood Green Space.

## Facts



£3m total investment



6 new parks



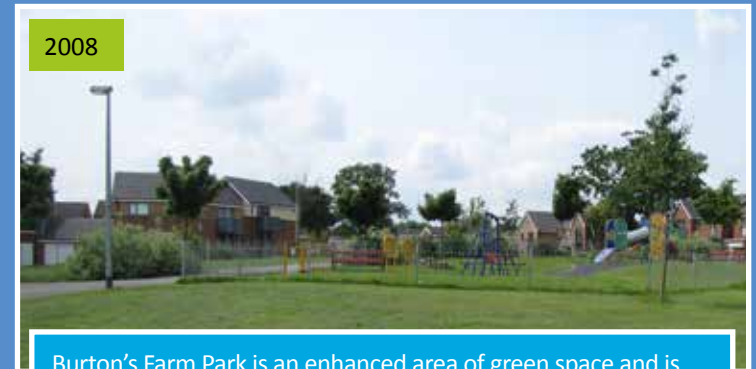
Environmental and improved open spaces



**Chapelhouse Recreation Ground** was our first major scheme created in 2008. The park in Fordbridge covers an area of 2.84 hectares and complements a new housing scheme, Chapel Walk, which was completed in 2007. Local residents were extensively consulted on the design of the £300,000 park which is true of all of our new and improved green spaces.

-  Woodlands Green Park
-  Chapelhouse Recreation Ground
-  Burton's Farm Park Green Space
-  Dove Way Park
-  Mull Croft Park
-  Raglan Way Play Area
-  Lanchester Park & Skate Park
-  Meriden Park
-  Ribble & Redwing Walk Green Links
-  Lowbrook Open Space Enhancements
-  Longley Walk Green Space

2008



Burton's Farm Park is an enhanced area of green space and is closely linked to the public realm at the new Village Centre in Smiths Wood as well as being integrated with new homes.

Chapelhouse Recreation Ground, 2008



**Lanchester Park** in Smith's Wood was an under-used scruffy area of land which underwent a huge transformation and now includes a skate park and Multi Use Games Area (MUGA).



2010





**Girton & Gonville** high rise blocks were demolished in 2013 and replaced by a new area of open space created for the community. The new space includes an area for informal play, seating, lighting, a central meeting place and new areas of planting. The scheme was part of a wider plan to improve pedestrian access to the new Village Centre at Smith's Wood.

Girton House, demolished 2013



From this ...



... to this ...

Dove Way Park, 2013



... to this

Woodlands Green Park, 2015



**Woodlands Green Park** was created on an underused area of land between the Chester Road and Windward Way in Smith's Wood as part of green space improvements to the area. This urban park is adjacent to the residential development, Montford Rise. A budget of £90,000 has transformed the former 8,700m<sup>2</sup> piece of land in Smith's Wood into an attractive and inviting green space for people to walk through and for children to stay and play.

BEFORE



AFTER



Residents in **Longley Walk, Smith's Wood**, were very pleased to see the creation of formal parking arrangements on a piece of land that had previously been mis-used.

Local children getting involved in planting trees at a new housing development.



New bat boxes on homes at Babb's Mill.





# Socio Economic Programmes

In 2007 NSP set up a grant scheme. The scheme awards money to local community and voluntary organisations in North Solihull that can directly benefit and improve the economic prospects of communities in the area. Each year a competitive selection process is carried out over a number of weeks. Successful applicants are required to submit quarterly feedback submissions of monitoring and financial information. On-site monitoring visits are carried out. Here is a selection of successful applicants:

## **Groundwork Birmingham & Solihull – Taw Close (2007) – Awarded £14,000**

The aim of this project was to develop a safer external environment so that the community, particularly elderly and disabled residents, felt encouraged to use the space outside their front doors enabling them to participate more in the life of their local community. The project removed the drying areas and fencing, opening up the area and allowing clear vision across the space, assisting in the reduction of anti social behaviour.

## **North Solihull Fusion Project – Awarded £25,000 for 3 years**

This was a sports development and training programme targeted at areas of anti-social behaviour. The 3 year project finished in 2009/10, in which year the 4419 young people participated in the programme, 282 sessions were delivered and 3 qualifications were gained.

## **Warwickshire Wildlife Trust – Open Spaces Youth Project (2011) – Awarded £29,998**

The Living Roots, Open Spaces was a 12 month detached youth project, designed to engage at risk young people from the North Solihull area, introducing them to a wide range of skills relating to conservation, art, media production and youth work. The outcomes of this project also provided young people with new skills, improved their eligibility for employment and helped to integrate them in their local communities, as well as contributing to a reduction in anti-social behaviour and improvements in health and wellbeing.

## **Meriden Adventure Playground Association – Playworker Apprenticeships (2013) – Awarded £21,500**

This project successfully recruited and trained two play-work apprentices to work full time at Meriden Adventure Playground while receiving training for a level 2 Cache accredited playwork qualification. This also enabled the adventure play area to remain open for longer hours, over more days, providing a great facility for younger people.

## Facts



£1.8m total investment



£150,000 pa grant funding



Up to 12 projects per year



Participants in NS Fusion at Babb's Mill Basketball Court



Creating safer 'useable' places



WWT Open Spaces Youth Project



**Unity Collaborative - Young Enterprise Company Programme (2013) – Awarded £8,250**

The project proposed to link businesses with the Unity Collaborative of schools in North Solihull to enhance curriculum development and improve employability skills thereby improving outcomes for pupils. The programme included structured days, work experience placements with local businesses and taking part in local trade fairs. The project culminated in April 2014 with the success of the team from Park Hall School winning the Best Company Marketing Award at the Deutscher Bank National Young Entrepreneur Awards 2014.

**ReCom, Access IT for Job Seekers (2015) – Awarded £28,812**

This project targeted working aged unemployed adults living in North Solihull that were in receipt of benefit and had no/poor ICT skills and/or confidence. ReCom successfully applied for this funding to enable them to carry on their successes of the previous 2 years.



**Gro Organic – Roots to Employment Yr2 (2016) – Awarded £25,000**

Roots to Employment (North Solihull) was a project giving local young people aged 16-25 opportunities to take part in supported training, work experience and environmental activities within their local community to improve their chances of securing paid work or entering education. The project enabled participants to develop a variety of environmental skills including landscaping, gardening, food growing and carpentry whilst dramatically improving the aesthetics of the local area. 'Dig for Victory – Chelmsley Wood' involved more than 150 local people.



**Solihull Sporting Girls & Ladies FC Personal Development Centre (2017) – Awarded £2,350**

This project was for girls aged 6-16 to encourage them to participate in football but without the pressures of a league format and results. All were welcome whether they were beginners or girls already established in teams, the idea being that it would be a fun and friendly learning environment whilst girls could make new friends from different areas and backgrounds.





# Business & Employment

The Enterprise Centre, which opened in 2014, is located in Chelmund's Cross Village Centre (see Village Centres pages). By 2017 there were 13 permanent tenants.

**Elaine Walker**, who set up her own business EW Bookkeeping & Accountancy in 2013, was awarded a £2,000 Kickstart grant which she used to buy better office IT equipment, freeing up her own funds to invest in marketing and staff. The company moved to the Enterprise Centre in 2015 and now employs two part-time staff as well as providing work experience placements for local people to improve their job prospects.

Elaine, who was 2017 runner-up in the annual Solihull Times 'Six of the Best' business awards, said: "Regeneration has made the area so much better and we have some beautiful new buildings here now, but it is important we also educate people and attract further investment to help the local economy."



## Facts



Youth unemployment has reduced drastically



Both male and female unemployment claimants, aged 16-64, have reduced



300 locally based jobs have been created



The Enterprise Centre, opened in 2014

### Business Startups in North Solihull

*Over the last 10 years the North Solihull Partnership has supported Solihull Council's Economic Development & Regeneration team by providing grant funding for their North Solihull Business Start-up programme.*

The programme offered financial assistance to individuals in the North Solihull Regeneration Wards who wanted to start up a new business venture, become self-employed or grow a young business (up to 24 months old). This could be a minimum grant of £500, rising to a maximum grant of £2,000, available to eligible applicants who can demonstrate a viable and sustainable business plan, outlining how the grant will be used to create / sustain / grow a local business in North Solihull.



### The Olive Branch Kitchen

Local couple Janine (pictured left) and Richard Dutton, both trained chefs, were awarded a £2,000 business start-up grant to open a new café at Three Trees community centre. The Olive Branch Kitchen, which opened in 2013, is a non-profit making social enterprise which is run by Janine and employs another five local people.

Janine, who was born and bred in Chelmsley Wood, said: "The grant was a real boost for us. It helped us buy the main bits of equipment we needed for the kitchen like a fridge, the extractor unit and a proper fryer.

"The business has evolved and grown over the last few years, with us taking on more staff, opening on more days and doing external catering too. We've been very lucky and had a lot of support.

"The new Chelmund's Cross village centre is a nice place to be, and we are at the heart of that. Three Trees is a great focal point for the community, so we get people in from all walks of life and we get to know them all.

"It is lovely to see mums popping in for a natter after dropping their kids off at school, and we've had a lot of construction workers come in while the regeneration has been going on too.

"The redevelopment programme has brought new buildings and more of a mix of people, which I think has been good for the area."



**Jobs Fund in North Solihull** – *The North Solihull Partnership has supported Solihull Council's Employment & Skills Team by providing Socio Economic grant funding for the on-going Jobs Fund programme for over 10 years.* Their remit has been to help unemployed young people from the regeneration area into work by engaging with local businesses and directly funding wage subsidies.

Their programme for 2016-2018 is called Youth Promise Plus – a European Social Fund and Youth Employment initiative. With NSP funding is has helped draw down additional finance.

#### **Bethany's Story - Youth Promise Plus Participant**

"I first heard about Youth Promise Plus when I signed on at the Jobcentre. My YPP Intervention Worker helped me to polish my CV, so that it would stand out to employers. I also participated in many activities, such as mock interview, job clubs, assisted job search. Youth Promise Plus also put me on an AAT (accountancy) course, to further my chances of employment in Business Administration.

"At our weekly job search appointment, Chris my Intervention Worker, told me about a vacancy at KS Training Ltd, and that they were looking for an Apprentice Assistant Administrator. I applied and I was ecstatic when I found out that I had been successful.

"My new job is challenging but rewarding, I feel that it has broadened my social skills, as well as my ability to work effectively in an administrative environment.

"I would most definitely recommend Youth Promise Plus."

#### **Sheila's story – Centre Manager KS Training Ltd (KST)**

KS Training Ltd are based at the Enterprise Centre and wanted to recruit through Youth Promise Plus (YPP).

Sheila said: "We wanted someone we could train throughout their Apprenticeship programme and, at the end of it have the benefit of a fully up-skilled 'embedded' member of staff from the local community. John, an Employment & Skills Project Officer at Solihull Council visited us so that we could explain our requirements. He explained he was going to advertise the vacancy with partner organisations and would keep in touch.

"A short time after our initial meeting, John sent over Bethany's CV. She interviewed extremely well and we were that pleased with her that we rang her and offered her the job the same day we interviewed her!

"She is already proving to be an excellent addition to our team. Her attention to detail, accuracy of information and phone manner are just what we were looking for. She is learning quickly and very willing to 'get to grips' with new things. It is great to find a young local person and be able to offer them a good start and at the end of it we get a fully trained member of staff too. That's a win, win."



Sophie Job (left), Administration Assistant, KST Training, Bethany McCann (right), Administration Assistant (Apprentice), KST Training (YPP participant)

**Amorim Flooring** moved into the Enterprise Centre in 2014. CEO Simon Mills said: "In mid-2014 we decided the time was right to launch a new flooring brand in the UK. We knew from the outset that we wanted to base the business in Solihull, not just because of its central location and ease of access, but, more importantly for us, because of the skills that existed in the area. We are a service-based business, built on the quality of our people, and there is a pool of talent in this area.

"After an initial period in a temporary office, we worked with the Business Development Team at Solihull MBC to find a permanent home. When they showed us The Enterprise Centre in North Solihull, it fitted our requirements perfectly – flexible office space, excellent facilities and it looked good so we could feel confident about bringing customers there.

"We are now into our third year of trading and going from strength to strength. We have recently been able to establish a partnership with a large European manufacturer which has given us the opportunity to extend our reach into new markets. The support that we received from SMBC, at a time when we really needed it, allowed us to concentrate on building our business – and the results we have achieved since then speak for themselves."





# Resident Engagement

Doing regeneration together ... over the years we have worked with some great people from the local community in North Solihull. Lots of people have engaged with us in a positive way and helped to shape the changes that have happened in their area.

- Neighbourhood plans
- Newsletters and press releases
- Consultation and exhibitions
- Resident Implementation Groups
- Fun and information days
- Community events
- Leaflets, flyers, letters and plans
- Ward Member briefings
- Website – [www.northsolihull.co.uk](http://www.northsolihull.co.uk)







**Pauline Allen** (left), who has lived in Chelmsley Wood for over 40 years, has worked with the North Solihull Partnership on their regeneration plans since 2004. She is a former chair of the Residents' Implementation Group (RIG), set up by local residents to make sure their voices were heard.

Pauline said: "The area was quite run-down and in need of some kind of regeneration. There have been controversial issues along the way but, overall, it has revitalised the area and been positive in the long-run."

"There are more homes, which have created better living accommodation, and it has brought new people into the area. There are a lot more young families now, a new generation of people living here."

"We have some attractive buildings, a new doctors' surgery, a dentists', a pharmacy and shops as well as a new dementia centre being built."

"A lot has come out of the whole process. Residents have got to know each other more through attending meetings and discussing everything that's been going on. Now we have a Patient Participation Group at the doctors too, which is bringing even more people together. It all helps build community spirit, ensuring people can have their say and get involved."

Professional artist **Ronnie Cashmore** (right) has been an active member of the local community since moving to Chelmsley Wood in 1972.

One of the founder members and a former Chair of the Residents' Implementation Group, Ronnie now runs various community art workshops and classes for the local community.

He said: "Chelmsley Wood used to be known as the 'concrete jungle'. Many of the buildings were old and tired, and the area needed some sort of regeneration."

"We've have started running a popular annual event at Bishop Wilson School over the last four years – Chelmund's Day, based on the legends and myths of Chelmund and the Woodlings. It's a fun way to engage with young people and inspire a sense of history, identity and pride in the area."



Pomeroy Way Opening, July 2014



**Pomeroy Way** - A new road in Chelmund's Cross Village Centre has been named after the area's long serving GP, Richard Pomeroy MBE. 'Dick', Pomeroy moved into ChelmsleyWood in the late sixties and set up his practice as the area was being built. Over the years his practice grew as the population increased and more services were offered.

Following the death of the much loved GP in 2013 local residents suggested that the new road, built as part of North Solihull Partnership's investment in the Chelmund's Cross Village Centre, should honour this long-serving pillar of the community.

"Pomeroy Way" was unveiled by Dick Pomeroy's surviving family members, his second Wife Michelle, daughters, Sarah, Rachel, Liddy, Helen, Becky and step-daughter Kate. Michelle Pomeroy, said: "Dick loved the people and loved working in the area. He built a wonderful practice that served the community well. And while he was proud of his MBE, I know having this road named after him would have been a greater honour in his eyes. "Speaking on behalf of the family I can only say how delighted we all are that the community he served for so long has found such a lovely way to honour him. This will be a lasting memorial to a lovely man and we thank you all whole heartedly."



# Legacy and Future Opportunities

## Impact of the Programme

Whilst Solihull is a broadly affluent borough, there are areas where levels of prosperity are lower, which impacts significantly on the quality of life for people in these neighbourhoods. The North Solihull Partnership has successfully undertaken a comprehensive education-led regeneration scheme in North Solihull that has been funded by both public and private sector investment of over half a billion pounds. This investment has helped to improve the lives of the 40,000 residents with a lasting legacy through new housing, schools and village centres, along with environmental improvements, health and socio economic programmes.

## Three Regeneration Wards - Kingshurst, Smith's Wood and Chelmsley Wood Key Measures Over Last Five Years

- Educational attainment in key stages 2 and 4 has improved.
- Claimant unemployment ages 16-64 was 9.2%, or 2,187 people. In September 2017 it has reduced to 5.7%, or 1305 people.
- Claimant unemployment ages 18-24 was 17.9%, or 750 people. In September 2017 it has reduced dramatically to 9.6%, or 345 people.
- 300 locally based jobs have been created between 2011-2016, resulting in an increase of more than 4.5% in workplace jobs in North Solihull.
- Total recorded crime has reduced by 26% from 2010-11 (3,951 incidents) to 2015-16 (2,935) in the three North Solihull Regeneration wards.
- Smoking prevalence in routine and manual occupations has reduced.
- Premature deaths (persons under 75) from both cardiovascular disease and cancer have reduced.

## Key Facts

Twelve years on, there are 6 new primary schools with another one planned and 3 remodelled primary schools. Around 1700 new homes have been built or have planning permission, replacing 887 demolished homes, including 5 tower blocks. Around 50% of the new homes are affordable rent and there is assisted living and homeless accommodation. There are 2 new village centres which have been created at the heart of the local communities, with a third (Kingshurst) at master planning stage, as well as several new and improved local parks.

It was my privilege as Leader of Solihull Council to be involved in the original objectives of the regeneration of North Solihull. I am very pleased that now, some 15 years later, we can see, due to the considerable input of our Partners and the tolerance and patience of our residents, the majority of these objectives have been met.

*Cllr Ted Richards, NSP Board Director*

As can be seen in this document, the regeneration programme for North Solihull has achieved a great deal since it started so many years ago. It has not been without its challenges, particularly the economic crash, which had a devastating effect on some other schemes across the country.

The achievements are there for all to see, but I wish to take this opportunity to thank all those who have been involved and who helped us, and to pay tribute particularly to our residents for whom the project has often been difficult. I hope they will be as proud as I am of this record of achievement.

*Cllr Ian Courts, NSP Board Director*

## So, What's Next?

An ambition of the North Solihull Partnership is to ensure that the legacy is enduring and sustainable by taking advantage of major transport investment which is already planned for the area. This will ensure that residents will have better opportunities to access employment and services beyond their immediate area.

Two key developments will be the HS2 Interchange, which will be sited next to the NEC and Birmingham Airport, and an extension of the Metro route between East Birmingham and the Interchange. This investment in infrastructure will help to promote the area nationally and internationally. These will be managed through Solihull Council's UK Central development body. UK Central comprises four areas of Solihull, with one dedicated to focus on the contribution of regeneration activities in North Solihull.

This will create an opportunity to link the development of additional homes with the new transport routes, which will increase value, density and enable hubs of complementary development to provide facilities in key locations.





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