

CONSTRUCTION GETS UNDERWAY FOR BARTON PARK PRIMARY SCHOOL

The construction of a new state-of-the-art primary school and nursery at Barton Park was officially launched on Wednesday 2 October at a ground-breaking ceremony.

Alex Robinson, director of development for Grosvenor Britain & Ireland, joined Oxford City Councillor Mike Rowley, Oxford County Councillor Glynis Phillips, Jolie Kirby, CEO of Community Schools Alliance Trust, Sue Holden from Barton Community Association and representatives from the construction industry to mark the milestone.

Scheduled to open in September 2020, the mixed-gender primary school will be for students aged 3 to 11 years and will be run by Community Schools Alliance Trust. The school will also provide a specially resourced provision for children with special education needs. In total, 360 new places will be provided, serving new residents at Barton Park and existing families in Barton.

The school is being delivered by Oxfordshire County Council as part of the wider Barton Park development by Barton Oxford LLP, a joint venture between Oxford City Council and Grosvenor.

Planned facilities for the school include a sports hall, dance studio, catering facilities and outdoor areas and play space. It will also accommodate a community hub for local people to use during and outside of school hours.

A Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA) and car park have already been completed by Barton Oxford LLP. The games area will be a shared facility for the school and the community. The school will also be offering its sport pitch for community use. This focus on active lifestyles reflects Barton Park's role as a demonstrator site for the NHS Healthy New Towns programme, set up to explore how new settlements can be designed to help people embrace healthier ways of living.

Alex Robinson, director of development at Grosvenor Britain & Ireland, said: "The new primary school will not only meet educational needs but help bring the community together at Barton Park. Having worked with our development partners at Oxford City Council and with the County Council to bring forward a high-quality design, we look forward to it becoming a focal point for residents alongside the homes, streets and green spaces across the development."



Councillor Mike Rowley, Oxford City Council Cabinet Member for Affordable Housing and Barton ward councillor, said: “We’re delighted to see work starting on this new school that will meet the needs of a growing population in Barton. The Barton development that we’re delivering with Grosvenor will add 885 new homes, 40% of which will be social housing.

“This new development in Barton is helping us meet the urgent need for new homes in Oxford, and it’s important that we build the community as well as homes. The new school will be an integral part of the community, not only for the families with children at the school but also through its shared facilities.”

On opening, the school will offer places in Nursery, Reception and Years 1 and 2. Those interested in finding out more about the school and how to apply should go to: <https://bartonpark.csat.academy/>.

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