

## New News



The Round Foundry has a new face in the form of Leeds newsagent FM Books. Peter Beaumont (above), owner of the newsagent, which also has premises on Swinegate, recently opened in the development after speaking to residents and employees in the area. "I saw an opportunity," says Peter, "The proposals for the area look really promising and more and more businesses are being attracted to the development. Another office unit has been let and there is a barbers shop and a pub due to open in the next few weeks."

## EC Harris' new objective

Leeds based property surveyors and project management consultancy, EC Harris, have been appointed to conduct scoping exercises into projects within the Holbeck Urban Village area which may qualify for European Union funding.

A number of sites within the area of the urban village may be eligible for funding via Objective 2 European Structural Funds, which aim to support the regeneration of disadvantaged areas undergoing redevelopment.

EC Harris have been appointed to carry out an appraisal of individual projects and developments, to determine those most likely to obtain the funding. Those shown to fulfil the funding criteria will then be prepared to bid for funding.

# Academy for sustainable communities to be based in Holbeck

As part of the government's Northern Way initiative, aimed at narrowing the £29 billion economic gap between the North and the South, the head office for a new skills academy will be established at the Round Foundry.

The Academy for Sustainable Communities (ASC) will not only address skills issues and shortages but will seek to improve support for new businesses, set out transport priorities and help people to find work, thus boosting employment rates across the North.

The decision to locate the ASC in Leeds was announced at a recent summit for sustainable communities and is said to have been influenced by neighbouring Yorkshire Forwards reputation as a leader in urban regeneration. It is seen as a major milestone in efforts to close the prosperity gap between northern regions and the rest of the country.



Chris Murray (pictured above) the academy's newly appointed interim chief executive says: "Solving the skills gap is crucial to successful regeneration". He said that, the centre would reflect the solutions for sustainable communities, rather than the problems.

The academy, expected to open in summer 2005, will draw on a development fund of £100 million set aside by the government to kick start The Northern Way growth strategy, £10 million of which has already been earmarked for the ASC.

## What do you see...?

Yorkshire Forward has launched a high visibility marketing campaign aimed at helping people understand its role as the regional development agency (RDA). The campaign features projects from across the region including Holbeck Urban Village, and challenges people's perceptions of the area. Terry Hodgkins, Chair of Yorkshire Forward said, "The campaign will be hard to miss. Our aim is that by 2010, Yorkshire's success story will also be hard to miss." The campaign included a launch that saw the key messages of the campaign being projected onto the Queens Hotel and is featured on poster sites around the city on key commuter routes.



Yorkshire Forward  
Holbeck Campaign on  
Kirkstall Road, Leeds

## Public Art, Hidden Agenda

Hidden Agendas is a workshop exploring the factors and problems involved in commissioning public art in the context of major development and regeneration projects. It is taking place as part of Situation Leeds, a city-wide festival of contemporary art (16 – 26 May 2005). The workshop aims to create an informed audience for public art in Leeds and encourage creativity that can help shape the future of our built environment. To help stimulate discussion, three artists have been asked to present ideas for site-specific projects in Holbeck Urban Village. For more information contact Liz Aston [liz@axisweb.org](mailto:liz@axisweb.org) or Danielle Treanor [dan@axisweb.org](mailto:dan@axisweb.org)

### KEY PARTNERS



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# newsletter



## Partnership board established

A new partnership board has been set up to steer delivery of the Holbeck Urban Village regeneration programme.

The board will meet quarterly and includes chair, Brian Walker (former leader of the Council), Jean Dent, Director of Development, and representative from Leeds City Council, Councillor Andrew Carter, leader of the Council and Jan Anderson on behalf of Yorkshire Forward. The board will provide strategic guidance for those delivering the project.

The key role of the board will be to secure funding and safeguard the overall vision and objectives for the development of Holbeck Urban Village as a mixed-use, sustainable business and residential community.

## Holbeck highways study gets under way

Mouchel Parkman, a traffic and highways profiling agency, are completing a study of current and predicted traffic flows through the Holbeck Urban Village area.

The study looks at key issues for the development, including peak time traffic using the area as a route to the M1.

The aim of the study is to forecast levels of traffic when Holbeck Urban Village and the surrounding development are completed and look at how they would impact on the existing road and transport infrastructure. The study will then look at options for reducing traffic flows within the village.

# Framework for the future of Holbeck Urban Village

The Revised Planning Framework Draft and Conservation Boundary Review were launched at the Round Foundry Media Centre where over 100 local residents, businesses, landowners and developers had their chance to comment on the proposed planning guidance for the development of the area.



Local stakeholders discuss the proposals and have their say

Key information regarding the design framework, fundamental objectives of the area and how Holbeck Urban Village will fit with other major developments in the city, such as Bridgewater Place, were highlighted by representatives from Yorkshire Forward and Leeds City Council.

An exhibition open to members of the public gave further opportunity for consultation regarding specific sites and feedback on the proposals.

The Revised Planning Framework Draft outlines the type of development that will be encouraged, with the emphasis on mixed use development combining business, residential and leisure uses.

There is a major focus on preserving the character of the built environment, with advice on building use, materials and heights. The boundary of the conservation area has also been extended beyond the village from the 6 hectares originally proposed to 14.5 hectares.



“There is a big focus on preserving the character of the built environment”

The proposals also look to safeguard some of the buildings in the area which, though unlisted, are of significant architectural and heritage interest.

Subject to feedback from stakeholders, the revised planning guidance will be published later this year and will play a key role in setting the tone for the redevelopment and regeneration of the urban village.

**Key speakers present the proposals:**  
(L-R) John Thorp, Leeds City Council Civic Architect; Richard Taylor, conservation team leader, Leeds City Council; Peter Vaughan, environmental project officer, Leeds City Council; Chris Hilton, Yorkshire Forward and Vanessa Allen, Holbeck Urban Village project manager, Leeds City Council

# £3 million funding confirmed for Holbeck

Funding of £3 million has been confirmed for the next two years to progress key elements of the regeneration programme for Holbeck Urban Village.

The majority of the funding is earmarked for the physical regeneration of the area. This includes building and construction aspects, improvements to the public realm and transport infrastructure.

The money will be used to progress schemes outlined in earlier issues of this newsletter, including the Dark Arches and Neville Street, street works and the reopening of Sweet Street bridge.

The funding is for detailed design and approvals. Further investment will be needed for the implementation of the schemes.

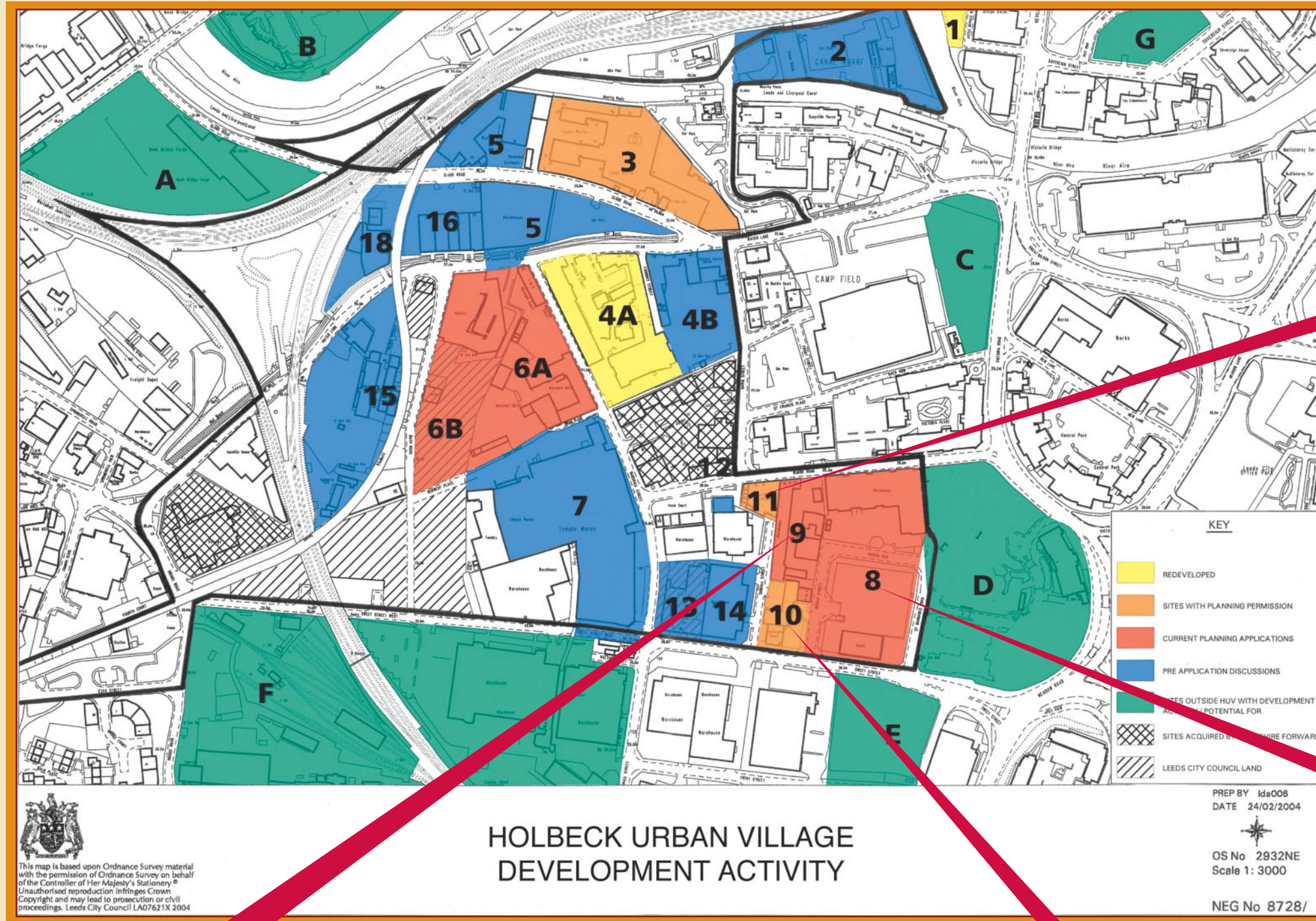
Other key projects identified for funding include skills and training development, business support services, sustainability and maintenance of the village as a whole.

The funding for the physical delivery of the regeneration programme will be allocated to specific projects such as:

- the redevelopment of the viaduct,
- improved links to the city centre via the Dark Arches
- design work and planning permission for the Canal Bridge crossing.

The funding will also mean that some of the concerns about crime and safety can be addressed. There will be funding matched by Leeds City Council for four new Police Community Support Officers to patrol the area.

# Holbeck: a developing destination



There has been growing interest in recent months in Holbeck Urban Village from property agents and developers looking to be part of the rebirth of this fast-developing area of Leeds. In the southern corner of the village, in particular, there are a number of developments in the pipeline.



**11 - Bush Engineering**  
Architecture 2B were commissioned by Bush Engineering to design a building that would reflect their expertise in metal fabrication for this newly acquired site just off Manor Road. The scheme, with a striking metal façade, comprises 45 apartments, 5700 sq ft of office space, 1100 sq ft retail unit at ground floor level and 34 basement parking spaces.

**8 - Dandara**  
Dandara are developing this area into a mixed-use space comprising of bar/restaurant, office space, residential space and an aspect of public realm/environmental improvements around the development.

## 9 - Bracken

Designed by architects Brewster Bye, on behalf of Bracken Developments, this site off Manor Road is currently being used for light industrial work. The plans are for a mixed-use building offering 193 apartments ranging from single room to duplex, 908 sq m of ground floor retail space and 106 parking spaces that will be semi-recessed in the basement of the building.



## 10 - Deltalord

Chartered architects and development consultants, Kilmartin Plowman and Partners Ltd have been commissioned by Deltalord for the design of their property in the south of Holbeck Urban Village. Previously office and workshop space the development will be a mixed-use space offering head-office space for a large company and retail space on the ground floor leading onto the proposed plaza. At an investment of £15-20 million the development has an estimated completion date of 2006.