

WELCOME to our first community newsletter with updates on the major regeneration of the former James Bridge Copper Works in Walsall.

We are now more than a year into preparation works at the site, regenerating 44 acres of brownfield land to create a leading Midlands logistics and manufacturing destination.

Formerly known as Phoenix 10, our development is now called SPARK, an exciting change that represents an important moment in the future of this landmark development. SPARK is a collective vision with our partners at Walsall Council, Homes England and West Midlands Combined Authority, reflecting the opportunities that will become available to local, national and international businesses, as well as the creation of around 1,000 jobs in the area. What's more, SPARK will also ignite the enormous potential for wider regeneration and new investment into the region.



UPDATES AND MILESTONES



Our ongoing site preparations are being led by main contractor, John F Hunt, paving the way for the future delivery of 620,000sq ft of high-spec logistics and manufacturing space.

Whilst rainfall this year has presented challenges, recent milestones include the completion of power diversion works and we continue to progress well with earthworks that will see the site prepared for construction.

Our coming phases of work include constructing retaining walls near to the canal and preparing the northern boundary.

As the weather improves, and drier spells arrive (hopefully!), please be

assured that we will maintain our site measures to keep disruption to an absolute minimum this summer. We're also delighted to confirm that SPARK will be a highly sustainable development, helping us to meet our Net Zero targets, with EV charging and cycle parking with changing facilities.

As works progress, James Bridge Copper Social Club are often supplying fantastic lunches and the team on site are currently collecting items for a local women's refuge centre in Walsall. Our contractors are also on the look-out for suitable volunteering opportunities - so if you have any suggestions, let us know via the contact details overleaf.

LOCAL JOBS, TRAINING AND OPPORTUNITIES

HBD works across a diverse range of sectors, but all our projects share our goal of creating places with purpose.

SPARK can power your potential, and as our biggest industrial & logistics project in the Midlands, there are lots of opportunities to grow your skills and develop a career with us or our partners.

Approximately 40 people currently employed at the site live less than 20 miles away, and last year we attended

the Pleck Jobs Fair, speaking to students and adults about careers in property development and construction.

During March, our contractor attended the Walsall Careers fair at the University of Wolverhampton's Walsall campus and we're also looking forward to building on our relationship with our neighbour, West Walsall E-ACT Academy, with plans underway to visit and speak to students in the near future.



IN THE COMMUNITY JANE LANE SCHOOL ALLOTMENT

Giving back and being part of the community is very important to us here at HBD. Members of our team recently joined pupils at Jane Lane School in Walsall, helping them with weeding and clearing their overgrown allotment to enable them to plant and grow vegetables.

The school specialises in delivering SEND education and our team were shown how to get stuck in by some fabulous year 10 and 11 students, as you can see in the pictures.



(L to R) Julian Geer, operations manager, John F Hunt; Cllr Adrian Andrew, Deputy Leader of Walsall Council; Andy Street, Mayor of the West Midlands; Laila Miles, Senior Development Manager at HBD and Steve Johnson, Director at John F Hunt

SITE VISITS FROM OUR FRIENDS AND PARTNERS

We love showing off our site and talking about the preparation works and coming construction. SPARK has been enabled with local and central government support and we would especially like to thank Walsall Council, who are partners on this project, for everything they have done to help realise the massive potential this development has for job creation and regional economic growth.

We recently welcomed Andy Street, Mayor of the West Midlands, and Deputy Leader of Walsall Council, Cllr Adrian Andrew to SPARK, showing them around the site and discussing how we are reusing material to prevent it being transported to landfill, just one of our sustainability measures in action.

A WORD FROM... JUSTIN SHELDON, HEAD OF MIDLANDS REGION AT HBD

“SPARK is one of the West Midlands’ most exciting schemes - it has enormous potential as a catalyst for wider regeneration and will attract new investment into the region. We have been working on its new identity for some time so it’s great to finally be able to reveal the new brand. SPARK better reflects the role the development will play in supporting logistics and manufacturers to grow and expand, all from a sustainable and well-located new destination, not to mention the jobs that will be created locally.”



CONTACT US

If you ever have any requests, questions or concerns during the works, you can contact our community affairs team on **08000 356 480** or email hello@sparkwalsall.co.uk

Our new website is also being finalised, but you can see it now by visiting www.sparkwalsall.co.uk

DEVELOPED BY:

HBD

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH:



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Black Country LEP