

TOP MARKS FOR IRONSTONE INFRASTRUCTURE WORK

A ground-breaking Lawley housing development has been praised as an 'excellent' scheme of the 'very highest standard' in an industry report that examined site safety, cleanliness, environmental impact and local consultation.

The Ironstone site was awarded 39.5 out of a maximum of 40 marks in its first ever Considerate Constructors Scheme (CCS) audit, which focused on the infrastructure work of Birse Civils.

Birse's work to date has included moving utility services and amending the road layout to prepare for Ironstone's 3,300 homes, primary school, shops, restaurants and bars. In all, infrastructure investment will be £65m of the £600m development, which is a consortium scheme between Barratt, George Wimpey and Persimmon.

In the report's conclusion, CCS auditor Mike Rushton wrote: "Quite simply one of the best sites that it has been my privilege to monitor. The Ironstone team has set out to produce a scheme that has set the very highest standards.

"The plan and logbook would serve as a good practice guide to anyone participating (in the CCS), but more than just producing a plan they have set checks in place to ensure that all of the stated procedures are being adhered to. Excellent!"

The CCS is a national initiative, set up by leading members of the construction industry, to promote best practice and raise industry standards. Only around one per cent of sites achieve a score of 39 or above.

Sean Martin, Birse's project manager, said: "The score of 39.5 out of 40 is an exceptional result, especially for the first audit of the site, and the auditor's

comments are testament to the fact that Ironstone is being driven by the very highest standards possible.

“It is a very exciting site and one which the people of Lawley, and everyone associated with Ironstone, have every right to feel very proud of.”

Birse’s current primary infrastructure work includes the remodelling of two of Lawley’s key roads, the A5223 Lawley Drive and the B5072 West Centre Way.

The first work along West Centre Way has seen new drainage and service ducts installed, while works to form the road surface will start in the spring.

Other infrastructure work will see Newdale roundabout removed and replaced by a signalised junction, a new link road to connect West Centre Way to Martingdale Way, new open space and pitches at Overdale and enhancement to Iron Bridge Way.

Neville Stebbing, current director of the Ironstone Developer Group (IDG), said: “We launched Ironstone in March last year with the promise of quality in the process and product. This award is recognition of the hard work of everyone towards achieving that goal and one which Birse and the whole team should be justly proud.

“With a number of families now in their homes, the development is really starting to take shape and this award is a great endorsement in the months before some key landmarks, such as the visitor centre opening and Barratt starting on site.”

For further information on Ironstone visit www.ironstone.uk.net

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Editor’s Notes

A joint project between Barratt Homes, George Wimpey and Persimmon Homes, Ironstone is the largest consortium initiative of its kind and will be the largest sustainable urban extension in the UK when complete.

Ironstone will consist of four separate village communities, called Lawley Bank, Lawley Village, Newdale and Newdale Valley, which will surround Lawley Square, the commercial and social hub for the Ironstone community.

Other IDG partners includes regeneration agency English Partnerships, Telford and Wrekin Council and supported housing providers Bournville Village Trust and Beth Johnson Housing Group.