



OAK-PLANTING WILL BE SYMBOL OF TREES SAVED FROM THE AXE

A substantial number of trees on the site of Shropshire’s largest residential development and newest village community have been saved from the axe – by the developers.

The original outline planning consent for the 3,300-home Ironstone scheme, in the Lawley district of Telford, had previously granted permission to clear large areas of existing woodland.

However, the Ironstone Developer Group (IDG) comprising Barratt, Persimmon and George Wimpey commissioned architects to revise the original housing layout for the second and third phases of its 15-year programme, leaving many more trees intact, to form a woodland edge around much of the site’s boundaries.

IDG director Guy Scott says more than half the trees which would have been removed - under the original proposals accepted by planning authorities – will now form part of the new Ironstone community.

He admits it was a pleasure to see just how much woodland will now be saved from the axe.

“The area around Lawley is very well regarded for its green spaces, it would have been sad to see so many mature and established trees taken down. We are

working hard to utilise the features of the existing open spaces within the development as much as possible,” said Mr Scott.

Almost all the woodland now being removed is to permit remediation, on stretches of the sprawling 170-acre site that used to be a colliery.

In addition to the effort to preserve local woodland, the IDG has offered its support to a local tree-planting ceremony organised by Lawley & Overdale Parish.

Mr Scott and the team of developers have sponsored a tree protector for an ornamental oak planted by Phil Blackburn (Bank community chairman) and Pauline Picken (chair of the Parish Council) adjacent to the Ironstone development.

The ceremony was attended by Kath Hughes, resident involvement officer for Ironstone Management Services, a specialist organisation established for the community management of Ironstone’s new village, including long term stewardship and involvement in local events.

Ms Hughes said: “Ironstone is centred on creating a thriving, sustainable environment - preserving local habitats is key for the IDG and IMS and we are keen to support local community initiatives such as this.

“Everyone was pleased to see the proposals revised to save the trees, and we wanted to mark this by getting involved with the planting of the oak, which we hope will be a lasting symbol of commitment to the area’s woodland.”

Ironstone’s developers have been implementing a range of initiatives to help the area’s wildlife flourish including the preservation of the rare Dingy Skipper Butterfly.