

## DEVELOPMENT OF PARK PREWETT HOSPITAL SITE

**Thomas Homes** has signed contracts to develop part of the 'core area' of the former Park Prewett hospital site in Basingstoke.

The part of the site known as the 'core area' includes a concentration of former hospital buildings including The Clock Tower House, The Water Tower, The Main Hall, six 'fan' buildings and four garden pavilions. These Victorian buildings will be retained and converted into homes along with new community facilities and local shops.

**Thomas Homes** will be developing 139 homes, being a mix of converted and new build homes. John Smith, Marketing Director for **Thomas Homes** said, "The development will provide a spectacular mix of converted homes in the former hospital buildings retaining many of the original features, including high ceilings and large sash windows, together with a great selection of new build homes".

The Park Prewett Hospital site, which in total will provide more than 1,000 new homes, was the first to be sold by English Partnerships, the national regeneration agency, from its portfolio of 96 surplus NHS properties. The sale marked the first step in a programme that aims to deliver up to 14,000 new homes nationally, up to 50 per cent of which will be affordable.

Park Prewett was marketed in July last year, just three months after the hospital sites were transferred to English Partnerships from the Department of Health. The first phase was sold to Taylor Woodrow who have now sold on part of the 'core area' to **Thomas Homes**. It is one of the largest residential sites in the current Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council Local Plan. Already with the benefit of detailed planning permission, the site will have a major impact on addressing housing shortages in the area.

David Hughes, Project Director for English Partnerships said, "This is a major milestone in our Hospital Sites Programme. It means that this old hospital site will soon become a new and vibrant community for hundreds of families. Working closely with Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council we have been able to speed up the delivery of much needed new homes in the town."

Hugh Thomas, Managing Director for **Thomes Homes** added, "English Partnerships and Taylor Woodrow have demonstrated their confidence in our capacity to deliver based upon our achievements elsewhere and our specific expertise in the conversion of old buildings."

Work is expected to start before the end of the year with the first units being ready for occupation in mid 2007.