

# Work starts at former Fox and Crane pub in Weddington

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CONVERSION UNDERWAY... work has finally begun to transform the former Fox and Crane pub, in Weddington, into apartments. NWG290115LIONEL.

WORK has finally begun to transform a former Nuneaton pub into apartments.

Seven years after an original planning application was submitted, work on the former Fox and Crane pub, in Weddington, has started.

The transformation of the once treasured and historic pub, which was also known as The Grove, into six apartments is expected to be completed in around 18 months.

Despite the unattractive scaffolding which has been placed around the prominent landmark, which has stood derelict for a number of years, the work is sure to bring much joy to those who live in surrounding homes.

The plans to make the building into apartments were submitted by Cartwright Homes Ltd, however it is understood that the actual building work is being completed by development firm Jade Strategies Ltd.

There has been a long-running saga surrounding the pub and its future.

A planning application to convert the building was first submitted in 2008, which prompted some residents to launch a fight to save the Georgian building. Despite the application being approved, the pub was still left untouched last year when the application came before Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council's planning committee once again.

Councillors unanimously agreed to vary a financial condition set when planning permission for the development was first granted in 2008.

But for some of them it was through gritted teeth as they were angry that the developers Cartwright Homes Ltd had 'threatened' that if the section 106 agreement was not varied, the site would have been 'mothballed' and simply left to deteriorate even more. The councillors were also aggrieved that the developers wanted to vary the original condition, which was to provide two shared ownership properties in the development.

But, in a deal struck with Town Hall planning chiefs, the firm pledged to either provide affordable housing in another development in the borough, or provide £80,000 towards the improvement of affordable rented properties across the two towns, or to put the lump sum into a pot that the council could use if 'buy back' of ex-council properties.

Councillors on the committee begrudgingly decided to take the money, and use it to put towards 'buying back' any former council properties, instead of risking the former pub being left to rack and ruin.