



Sowing the seeds of a regenerated town

By Kay Lockett on September 24, 2010 11:40 AM | **Tagged with:** allotments, Canning Town, Communities Minister Bob Neill, Custom House, Morrisons, Newham Mayor Sir Robin Wales, regeneration scheme

The transformation of Canning Town and Custom House into a thriving and sustainable place to live and work was further buoyed this week by the announcement of Morrisons as retail partner. Communities Minister Bob Neill and Newham Mayor Sir Robin Wales visited allotments based on the 16-acre development site to salute the news of the partnership and the promise of thousands of jobs and homes which will be created through the £600million town centre regeneration scheme.



Mr Neill said: "This is a huge step forward for Canning Town. This is big society stuff – getting people involved with the project and engaging social enterprises with the development. Every bit of regeneration in this area needs to give something back to the community.

"We very much welcome the news a major retailer coming to the area. "The supermarket will be well placed close to transport links and will employ a great number of local people."

As the UK's sixth largest regeneration scheme, the town centre development is expected to create 3,500 jobs, 10,000 homes and 60,000sq m of retail, office and leisure facilities.

As the anchor retailer for the development's first phase, the Morrisons development will include 172 residential units above the superstore and parking. Construction work starts at the beginning of 2012 with completion scheduled for summer 2014. Before construction starts, a temporary allotment for community use has been created on the site.

Community groups already using the space include young people from the Peacock Gym and Anchor House, a hostel and life skills centre for homeless adults and the Scouts Association.

Mr Neill said: "It's great to see the innovative use of public land.

"The interim community allotments are giving local people the chance to use and enjoy the area creating green space in what would have been a vacant site ahead of building work."

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