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New developer sought for Beeston

FOLLOWING the news, two weeks ago, that Henry Boot plc has withdrawn from discussions on the redevelopment of Beeston Square, the leader of Broxtowe Borough Council has held further talks with the property company to ask if it could be persuaded to come back to the negotiating table. Its answer has remained the same: "No".

The talks collapsed after Henry Boot, The Square's leaseholder,

had spent a year discussing terms with the council before sticking on one key point. The council wanted work to start on redevelopment of the dowdy 1960s-style shopping precinct within four years; lawyers for the property company refused to commit to a time frame of anything less than six years.

Leader of the Council, Cllr David Watts, commented: "In spite of my initial shock on hearing that Henry Boot was withdrawing, I remained fairly confident that we could reach agreement, providing they were willing to be reasonable. Sadly, reasonable was not a word

that could be used to describe the people I met with and as a result, the Henry Boot option is dead in the water.

"However, as soon as we realised there were problems with Henry Boot, we began making contact with other developers and we will now proceed with these.

"This will cause some delay, but we will do everything we can to minimise it," Cllr Watts explained. "A delay in order to get the right result is better than rushing ahead with the wrong scheme, which would be a disaster for Beeston."

Lights out in Broxtowe

First areas chosen for energy-saving street lighting project

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE County Council has selected the first areas to take part in a new street lighting project. The scheme will save more than £1million a year and cut carbon emissions and light pollution.

The project will involve turning off some lights between midnight and 5.30am, dimming some between 10pm and 7am and switching others off entirely. It

will start in the Broxtowe district in March 2013 and, according to the provisional timetable, will be completed by August 2013.

A risk assessment will be carried out for every light and the most appropriate option introduced for each town, village, suburb or road. Many lights will not be altered, including those near hospitals, accident black spots or areas with higher than average crime rates.

NCC is working closely with the emergency services and will monitor the project to make sure that crime and collision rates do not rise. Parish and district councils will be informed before the changes take place in their areas.

One benefit of reduced street lighting is much better views of the night sky, and the project is supported by the Nottinghamshire Campaign for Dark Skies.

Cllr Richard Jackson, Cabinet Member for Transport and Highways, said: "I know there are many Nottinghamshire residents who will welcome this project. Where this work has been carried out by other authorities, collision and crime have not increased. We will continue to light crime and accident black spots and we will monitor the project carefully."



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