Tesco’s move across Rotherham town centre has taken a step closer after legal terms were agreed between the retailer and project developer, TCN.

The plans for the new £40m Tesco Extra were approved by the members of the planning board at Rotherham Council in early June and have been referred to the government’s National Planning Casework Unit. Assuming government approval, TCN expect to commence construction in autumn 2012 with the store completed and open in time for Christmas 2013.

Richard Pearce, director of TCN UK, commented: “It took a long time for all of the components in the process to come together. We are very pleased with this successful deal for all parties, including Rotherham Council, the owner of the land.”

It is envisaged that the development will create 450 jobs, including 200 full time and 250 part time roles. The new Tesco store would be located on the site of the current Civic Building, Central Library and Norfolk House, with the addition of a petrol station where Crinoline House currently stands.

One of the first high street initiatives from Mary Portas hit the mark with footfall in Rotherham Town Centre up 13.3% week-on-week on National Market Day (Saturday 23rd June).

The inaugural National Market Day was inspired by the Mary Portas Report, which highlighted the importance of supporting local markets as part of the regeneration of UK high streets. It marked the start of two weeks of activity to celebrate markets of all types from around the UK.

Diane Wehrle, Research Director at Springboard and Industry Mentor to the Portas Pilots, says, “There has been some scepticism about the effectiveness of the Portas initiatives so it’s fantastic that Rotherham has embraced this opportunity and proved the critics wrong. From food to flea markets, the UK has some of the world’s most varied markets and they are an integral part of the great British high street heritage.”

Robin Lambert, Markets General Manager for Rotherham, adds, “Our National Markets Day celebrations started on Saturday 23rd and continued throughout the week, with many casual traders invited to take advantage of the £10 per day stall offering. This initiative proved to be a success, with the heightened promotional activity and increased variety on offer driving footfall up 13.3% compared to the previous Saturday.

“Despite the bad weather visitors from all over the South Yorkshire region took advantage of the enhanced offering, with many staying on in Town to visit the high street shops too. Rotherham hosts regular markets and we frequently change the focus of what’s on offer in order to keep people interested and eager to come back to the town again and again.”

After a £100,000 investment by Punch Travens the Hare and Hounds on Wellgate has reopened. Lee Mills, former General Manager of Bar Tryst and Pop Nightclub bought the pub because of its location and his wealth of experience in the licensed trade in Rotherham. There are a number of promotions and entertainment for everyone to enjoy with ‘Shop Local’ customers being offered 10% off food and drinks.

Lee has recently been re-elected as chair of the local Pub Watch meetings and looks forward to welcoming customers to the all new premises.
Gallery Town Updated

Gallery Town, the open air art gallery project in Rotherham town centre, is being updated with the large-scale artwork being replaced by new pieces that the local community and visitors to Rotherham can enjoy.

By the end of June 2012, Gallery Town will consist of over 90 pieces of artwork from local artists and schoolchildren and famous masterpieces from the National Gallery. They have been reproduced on a large scale and are being installed on key sites across the town including, pubs, shops and council buildings.

The innovative Gallery Town project was officially launched in September 2011 with an initial collection of 60 huge pieces of artwork. An art trail has been produced that guides visitors around the town, showing the location and details of a selection of the art, with many more pieces to be discovered along the way.

Yoga Sanctuary

The Yoga Sanctuary on Sheffield Road is now open, welcoming both those experienced and beginners to Yoga, as postures can be modified to suit the individual. Sharada Rao, the business owner, holds a diploma with the British Wheel of Yoga and has been a yoga tutor with the Worker’s Educational Association for several years. She has recently enhanced her training by qualifying as a iyengar yoga tutor.

Yoga Sanctuary was officially opened by the Mayor and Mayoress, Cllr Dave Pickering in late June and was dedicated to the memory of local GP, the late Dr Krishna Rao Adoni.

For information about classes please contact Sharada on 07723 059364.

Blue Bird Hairstyling

Looking for something different with a vintage twist? Then why not pop into Blue Bird Hairdressers on Wellgate. Bianco Pilkington is trained in all aspects of hairdressing and offers a luxury vintage style salon. Every month Bianco organises a vintage day for people to try out new vintage styles as well as tutorials on styling, demonstrations and vintage parties. Check out her facebook site, Bianca Pilkington Hairstyling, for details.

Star Nails

Linda Dang has relocated from Kuttin Kru and started her own business called Star Nails, based at Unit 1, The Arches, All Saints Square. Experienced in nail extensions and manicures, air brushing and nail jewellery. Open six days a week 9am-5.30pm. To arrange an appointment contact 01709 370692.
Down the Market

There have been a number of changes regarding traders in the markets, over June and July including:

- Bilal Fashions opened on 18th June in the indoor market selling Asian ladies and children’s wear, ready made and unstitched, handbags and accessories.
- Notes Extravaganza opened on 2nd July in the indoor market selling sheet music and instruments.
- Green Exteriors has expanded its range of products including water features, garden statues, flame displays and memorials, and taken on a new unit in the downstairs indoor market.
- Coming Soon; a new stall in the indoor market selling Ladies fashions in large sizes 16+

Rotherham Voice

The Rotherham Voice is a new forum created for businesses and organisations based in the Town Centre. The purpose of the group is to bring businesses together to have a collective voice of influence and promote positive change for the town.

At the bi-monthly meetings there is an opportunity for people to share information, good practice and ideas and more importantly have your say on issues affecting you and identify priorities for action.

The meeting will be chaired by a representative of the business community and structured to ensure everyone has the opportunity to contribute. The Retail Investment Team will make sure that all businesses are well informed of each meeting and will take responsibly for booking venues, taking minutes and coordinating action, but the meetings are predominantly for businesses to lead of agenda and focus.

Any issues or areas for action raised at the meeting are reported to the new Town Centre Partnership who prioritise actions raised and work collectively to see how best to tackle them. The Partnership will consist of representatives from Rotherham Council, delivery organisations and partners who work at an operational level within the Town Centre, and will also be attended by the Chair of the Rotherham Voice.

The partnership has a sole purpose of ensuring everyone is committed to working together to make a difference to Rotherham Town Centre - whether that is tackling issues affecting trade or progressing new ideas to drive footfall and attract new customers.

Contribution and participation from town centre businesses is vital and information gathered at the meetings will inform future decisions, projects and spend.

The next Rotherham Voice Meeting will be in mid-September and include a tour of the New York Stadium. Details to follow.
Conference & Events contract appointed at New York Stadium

Lindley Venue Catering, the specialist sports stadia catering division of The Lindley Group, has been appointed by Rotherham United FC to develop its conference and events business, and manage all aspects of match day and non-match day catering at the League Two club’s brand new £20 million New York Stadium.

About Town

Sophisticakes is the new name on the High Street!

Kerry Lyons has become the first entrepreneur to move into one of the six properties being transformed on the High Street under the Heritage lottery fund backed Townscape Heritage Initiative. Kerry is offering home baked cakes, cupcakes, novelty cakes and also includes an upmarket tea room.

Kerry says, “Sophisticakes needs to be as perfect as possible to reflect what Rotherham is...a beautiful, traditional home town”. See www.sophisticakesrotherham.co.uk for more details.

Futures secured for Bonmarché and Clinton Cards

Staff at Bonmarché in Rotherham are pleased to announce that their store is one of around 270 stores to remain open under new owners, Sun European Partners. The new owners have significant retail experience with a large portfolio of companies including the Irisa group, Jacques Vert, the League Two club’s brand new £20 million New York Stadium.

The new owners have significant retail experience with a large portfolio of companies including the Irisa group, Jacques Vert, American Golf, SCS sofas, Lee Cooper, Scotch and Soda.

The Business & Retail Investment Team is a service within Rotherham Council’s Economic Development Team. It’s open every day for hire (except Thursday and Sunday) from 9.30am – 3.30pm, with the last booking available at 1.30pm.

Meeting rooms available at 1.30pm.

For further information call 01709 526049.

Business surveys

ASD Research will be contacting businesses who have not returned their business surveys to date. Please complete and return the business surveys as soon as possible.

Calling all retail businesses

Did you know that there is 2,500 square metres of town centre retail space, 125 units and national brands. They are now in place taking Christmas Parties, Conference, Social and Weddings Bookings (www.NewYorkStadium.com) for more information.

Roles

Staff at Bonmarché in Rotherham are pleased to announce that their store is one of around 270 stores to remain open under new owners, Sun European Partners. The new owners have significant retail experience with a large portfolio of companies including the Irisa group, Jacques Vert, American Golf, SCS sofas, Lee Cooper, Scotch and Soda.

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