



Site set to be cleared

**Press Release
10th February 2010**

Work is set to start on preparing the site of a multi-million pound development at The International Centre, Telford.

Shrubs and plants will be removed in the first phase of the redevelopment programme as the venue waits for planning permission to start the major building work.

As part of the outline planning application they have jointly submitted with Telford & Wrekin Council, Southwater Event Group are seeking permission to create a third on-site hotel, a new 1,000sq m flexible event suite, additional bars and restaurants, and new reception and public concourse areas.

The venue already has 11,300 sq m of event space, two on-site hotels and a third hotel just two minutes' drive away. And now the new plans will take the total of on-site hotel bedrooms to 451, as well as creating more event space as a direct result of customer demand.

Southwater Event Group CEO, Tom Gray, said: "These are extremely exciting plans that are essential in order for us to accommodate the growing demand for our venue.

"And we are now beginning to clear the area of land which will be used to create additional car parking space to be used during the development programme."

Ground work teams will move in week beginning February 15 to begin clearing the land which is all owned by the Southwater Event Group.

Any shrubs removed will be relocated elsewhere on the site, and native trees will be planted to replace any that need to be removed.

Telford & Wrekin Council Leader, Cllr Andrew Eade, said: "I welcome the start of works around The International Centre. The Southwater Event Group are our joint major partner in this exciting project.

"The Southwater development will help create a new heart for Telford and these works herald the creation of new car parking areas to be used during the development programme."

The target schedule for the overall project is to have the event suite completed by April 2011, and the new hotel finished by May 2013. The work will be carried out in phases, with each project completed before the next begins so that The International Centre remains fully operational throughout.

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