

Crest Mixed Use Residential Development at Woolston

Comment by Captain Jimmy Chestnutt, Director General, Southampton & Fareham Chamber of Commerce.

The Chamber of Commerce has noted that the two planning applications submitted for the Woolston site indicate the provision of not only the 800 jobs from Palmer Johnson, but also over 350 further jobs within the Crest scheme. This makes a total of 1,150 jobs, which is more than envisaged in the earlier planning application. The Chamber also accepts it would have been difficult to attract such a key employer as Palmer Johnson, without the supporting infrastructure that the Crest application provides.

Transport issues are, of course, a major concern in any development of this size but shift working and new homes next to new jobs should result less congestion. As well as the parking provision provided in various places within the development, other measures will help alleviate congestion, such as a Travel Plan with car sharing, bike storage facilities, a bus from the Woolston train station to the site and the possibility of a water taxis connection to the parking at the Hythe manufacturing facility. Furthermore, the National Cycle Network NCN 2 will traverse the site, providing direct and safe cycle links to and from the area.

On the basis of information provided, the Chamber is satisfied that the two schemes together will achieve a truly mixed use redevelopment of the whole Woolston site and provide an economic boost to the Southampton city region in line with its maritime heritage.