

Work to start to demolish dilapidated buildings

WORK is planned to start next week to demolish two dilapidated buildings on Whitehaven harbourside.

Copeland Council has confirmed that after a long and challenging period of intense discussion and negotiation, the owners are set to demolish Mark House and substantial parts of The Park nightclub on Monday – and the work is expected to be completed within 12 weeks.

Mike Starkie, Mayor of Copeland, welcomed the news. He said: “I’m delighted that demolition work on Mark House and The Park will finally begin.

“When I came into office just over two years ago, I was determined that these buildings – and all other dilapidated buildings in the borough – would be dealt with.

“The process is a difficult one, but this example shows that I, with colleagues, are resolute that these buildings that spoil people’s enjoyment of our beautiful area will be addressed.

“This demolition unlocks a key site for Whitehaven’s redevelopment, and although we must be patient, the replacement scheme, with the hotel, apartment and car park plans, will kickstart the regeneration of the North Shore and harbour area of town.”

Britain’s Energy Coast (BEC) is working in partnership with Copeland Council and Whitehaven Harbour Commissioners on the North Shore redevelopment project, that includes offices, apartments, a hotel, a supporting multi-story car park and leisure and retail opportunity.

BEC’s chief executive Michael Pemberton said: “The redevelopment of the North Shore area of Whitehaven is critical for the future success of the town. We are pleased to see moves to demolish Mark House, a key step that will pave the way for improvements at the harbourside.

“As we make preparations to bring forward a significant scheme at North Shore, we are working with the current owners of Mark House to discuss the future of the plot.”

Mark House, a former revenue and benefits office, closed in 2004, and The Park had its last night on New Year's Eve 2005.



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