

Leisure centre's well on way

WORK on Wyre Forest's new multi-million pound leisure centre is sprinting ahead on the former British Sugar site at Silverwoods.

On Tuesday (September 29) councillors, business members and local school children gathered to mark the construction reaching its highest point by planting a birch tree.

The new £11.9 million state-of-the-art centre, which will be designed, built, operated, and maintained by Places for People Leisure after they were awarded a 25-year contract, will include a six-lane 25m swimming pool, learner pool, dance studios, sports hall, climbing wall, fitness suite and small outdoor football pitches.

A café with viewing facilities, a children's play area, a health suite equipped with sauna and steam room and free parking will also be available.

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The council were also awarded £2 million of National Lottery funding from Sport England, towards the construction.

Construction started on the site in June this year and is progressing well, in preparation for a summer 2016 opening.

Those in attendance on Tuesday to mark the highest point included pupils from Birchen Coppice Primary School, representatives from Wyre Forest District Council, Places for People Leisure, Pellikaan Construction, Sport England and Roberts Limbrick architects.

Pellikaan builder, Malcolm Young, from Kidderminster, planted the birch tree



Kevin Mills, Sport England, Peter Kirkham, Places for People Leisure, Gerard Pellikaan and Councillor Marcus Hart

at the highest point of the construction during the ceremony.

Councillor Marcus Hart,

leader of Wyre Forest District Council, said: "We are delighted to see our important project meet this mile-

stone in the build.

"There is a lot of change and development happening in the district and this project is leading the way.

"The new centre will bring more fantastic leisure opportunities for the community in a modern, energy efficient building. It will also save the council and tax payers money."

It is estimated the new leisure centre will save the district council more than £390,000 a year.

The savings will be achieved because the new centre will be more sustainable and the contractor will be paying the council a management fee to run the facility.

The opening of the new leisure centre will see the closure of Kidderminster's Wyre Forest Glades Leisure Centre and Stourport Sports Centre, while Bewdley Leisure Centre will remain open.