



Jericho Wharf has been abandoned and practically derelict since the boatyard closed. Picture: Jericho Wharf Trust

Canal wharf development hope as colleges buys site

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THE city's derelict Jericho Wharf site has been sold to an Oxford University college with promises to finally develop the site.

Worcester College has completed the purchase of the canalside form boatyard from Hong Kong-based Cheer Team for an undisclosed price.

The 18th century wharf has essentially been left abandoned since the early 1990s with various plans to redevelop it never coming to fruition.

Jericho Wharf's sale was confirmed this week by the Walton Street institution.

"This acquisition marks the beginning of an exciting new chapter for an important historic site that has remained largely unused for almost two decades," the college said in a statement.

"The college is committed to bringing the site back into productive use through a carefully considered redevelopment that respects its heritage and contributes positively to the local area.

"We recognise the strong interest that local residents and other stakeholders have shown in the future of the site.

"Over the coming months, we will be engaging with the community and



Previous vision to redevelop the Jericho boatyard site. Right, David Edwards of the Jericho Wharf Trust



other interested parties as we develop proposals that seek to meet both the college's longstanding needs and the aspirations of the wider neighbourhood."

The Jericho Wharf Trust, the body representing local groups campaigning for a community-led development, has said it is "delighted" by the sale.

Trustee David Edwards said: "For the first time since 2013, when the derelict boatyard site was bought by Cheer Team, there is real hope it will be developed in the joint interests of its owner and of the people of Jericho."

During the 13 years of its ownership by Cheer Team, the site became progressively more derelict, the trust said.

A catalogue of planning applications, appeals, permissions and then

failure to build once permission was granted, "showed a lack of commitment" from Cheer Team, it said.

Indeed, planning permission for a mixed-use residential and community development including homes, a boatyard, community centre and piazza, lapsed in February this year; two years after it was given at appeal.

In December 2024, the Jericho Wharf Trust began to campaign for Oxford City Council to reclaim the site by compulsory purchase order.

By March this year, cabinet member for asset management Ed Turner declared that "our patience is at an end" with the lack of progress.

Mr Turner said on Tuesday that he is "pretty happy" about the sale, adding: "It has been stuck with nothing hap-

pening for far, far too long.

"And as you may know we threatened a compulsory purchase order because the situation and total lack of movement was completely unacceptable."

Jericho Wharf Trust vowed to work with the college to bring forward proposals for the redevelopment of the site.

This is expected to be a new community centre, boatyard and public square with provision for a new canal crossing.

"We will be initiating a process of community consultation," the trust said in a statement. "The people of Jericho and of Oxford as a whole, having lived so long with promises and retractions over the site, need an opportunity to express their views."

Facial recognition leads to 3 arrests

THE deployment of police Live Facial Recognition cameras in Bicester and Oxford led to three arrests earlier this year.

The camera vans came to Bicester town centre and central Oxford on May 19 and 29 respectively.

Data released by Thames Valley Police showed that a total of 62,929 faces were captured and a total of 7,521 people were spotted who are on the police's 'watchlist' during an average of three hours at the two Oxfordshire spots.

In Bicester there were three 'true alerts confirmed' and three arrests but the day seemed to run smoothly with no alerts, arrests or disposals when in the famous University city.

A live CCTV feed captures facial images before they are input into the system.



Month-long night closure on the A34

A month-long nightly road closure has been announced on a key Oxfordshire route.

Oxfordshire County Council confirmed the A34 southbound will shut between Pear Tree Roundabout and Marcham Interchange for resurfacing works.

Closures will take place nightly from 8pm to 6am, starting August 3 and are expected to last until August 31.

The works will also require the closure of the hard shoulder and layby at certain locations.

Weekend work is also scheduled.

A full ban on through traffic will be in effect during these times, with exceptions for emergency services and those carrying out the works.

Fine for driving car with a loud exhaust

A 19-year-old man has been fined and given six points for driving without insurance and with a noisy exhaust in Bicester.

Alex-Ciprian Gliga, of Maypole Crescent, Ilford, admitted at court to three offences at the A41 park and ride in Bicester on October 2 last year.

Gliga pleaded guilty to using a car with an altered exhaust, driving without an identification plate fitted, and having no third-party insurance.

The court fined him a total of £150, ordered him to pay a victim surcharge of £80 and prosecution costs of £85. His driving record was endorsed with six penalty points.

Two people 'run away' from crash

TWO people allegedly fled the scene of a crash in West Oxfordshire on July 24

Police dogs were sent out to track down the two people who left the crashed blue Volkswagen Golf by the side of the road.

A spokesman added: "Following a road traffic collision in Ducklington, two suspects fled the scene on foot.

"Thanks to the assistance of local residents and the West Oxfordshire neighbourhood team, ICR, rural crime team and police dog Regan with his handler, PC Walker, both individuals were located and arrested."

Anyone who may have witnessed the event can contact the police on 101, quoting reference number 43260380995.