

9/10/03

Green light for homes in town centre

BRIDGE Garage is set to be demolished, to make way for a development of eight new town houses.

Planning permission for the proposals was granted at a recent council meeting, with demolition work scheduled for this week.

The garage forecourt, taxi office and workshop will be demolished, with work expected to last until the end of the month.

The project will feature three three-bedroom houses and five two-bedroom houses.

A report to the Vale Council stated: "The site itself and the redevelopment will have a major impact on the character and setting of the historic town of Cowbridge."

The two-bedroomed houses will form the frontage on Cowbridge High Street, while the three-bedroomed houses will 'turn the corner' and link the development with The Limes.

The report continues: "The use of a gated/arched opening from High Street and a further access adjacent to the River Thaw will encourage levels of local pedestrian access as found in traditional layouts throughout the town."

The Vale of Glamorgan Conservation Advisory Group had recommended that the application be refused, saying that the scheme was an example of "over-development".

The group said: "The height and scale of the proposal will not enhance the character of the

conservation area."

Cowbridge Town Council also raised an objection, stating: "This is an important site in the heart of the Cowbridge conservation area and does not enhance or improve the area."

"The proposed development will have a marked impact on traffic using the already dangerous Limes Road.

"The development will produce an additional strain in an already overburdened sewerage system."

Potential flood, car parking and appearance problems were also cited.

An amended scheme was put to the council, and although no objection was raised in principle, specific objections remained.