

Bentley drivers add class to development



A PRESTIGIOUS car club is set to move to derelict ironworks that became an eyesore and was used as an illegal motorbike scrambling track.

The Bentley Drivers' Club, which has 3,500 members worldwide, is in negotiations to buy purpose-built offices at the former ironworks.

The works, between Wroxton and Horley, are to be transformed into a complex of offices for use by small businesses.

The development could create up to 30 new jobs.

The Bentley Drivers' Club plans to buy one of three new barn-shaped buildings at the site and move from its current home in Long Crendon, Buckinghamshire.

It helps members with technical advice, information on spare parts, insurance, and stores and mails club regalia, clothing and books. It also maintains the Bentley Archives and organises a race meeting at Silverstone.

The club would hold meetings and seminars at

its new offices.

The Wroxton works have been largely unused for more than 30 years although an agricultural contractors was based there over a decade ago.

The news the site is to be developed, after Cherwell District Council granted planning permission last week, has been welcomed.

Wroxton Parish Council clerk June McNaught said: "I think people are generally pleased that something is happening to the site. It is an eyesore."

The site is to be developed by Apollo Developments of Brackley.

Managing director Robert Synge said: "The old buildings are already being knocked down and the site is being cleared.

"We hope to have completed by April or May next year. It should look nice and bring some more local employment into the area."

Bentley Drivers' Club chairman Jenny Ford said she could not comment on the move at this stage for contractual reasons.

CLASSIC: The club representing drivers of Bentley models such as the Arnage are poised to move into a development on the site of the derelict Wroxton ironworks (below). Right, an early artist's impression of what it will look like

