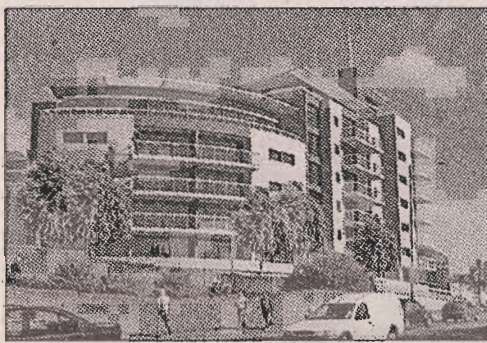


Mundane to modern

Commuter haven Bromley is to get an injection of fashionable, City-style apartments to cater for the new smart set. **David Spittles** visits a town on its way up

BROMLEY, the affluent south London suburb known for its between-the-wars semis and 1960s bungalows, is at last getting an injection of City-style flats. One in three Bromley residents commutes to central London, and many hard-working locals yearn for the sort of smart apartments that developers have delivered elsewhere.

Bristol Street Motors, a landmark Ford dealership, is poised to become an eye-catching scheme of 81 flats. Barratt has submitted proposals to redevelop the site, which is set to get the green light once it passes the public-consultation stage. Barratt has come up with a contemporary design,



In the driving seat: Barratt is building an eye-catching scheme of 81 flats on the site of an old car dealership

with lots of glass and a sweeping curved roof. Construction may not start immediately, however, because councillors have questioned the high density level of the building, but buyers can register now on 01483 505533.

On the former Bromley Hospital site, Barratt has been notching up sales at a scheme called ConneXtion, a development of 64 houses and 124 apartments. It is about a five-minute walk from the station and provides quick access to the pretty Kent countryside. Phase three will be released in

‘A Georgian mansion set in acres of woodland will become loft apartments’

early December with house prices from about £299,995. Call 020 8773 2728.

Crest has launched a scheme of 15 apartments at Sibley Court. All are two-bedroom and priced below the three per cent stamp-duty threshold. Call 020 8466 6033.

Morgan Restoration is a local developer that specialises in upmarket conversions with a modern edge. Its latest project is the transformation of a listed Georgian mansion set in five acres of woodland, in Bexley, into loft-style apartments.



The missing link: ConneXtion provides the smart apartments Bromley commuters have been waiting for

The complex, which will be called Baldwyns, had been on English Heritage's at risk register for 10 years.

Some of the apartments are triple-height and range up to 1,400sq ft, with tall, original windows. They have glass balustrades and a stainless-steel walkway leading to a sleeping deck. It is a good specification that may appeal to downsizers who

want to approach retirement in style. Prices range from £300,000 to £350,000. Call 01322 866800.

More expensive apartments (£735,000) are being built by Laing in select Chislehurst. Ten detached houses form the centrepiece of the scheme, called Walsingham Manor. These are priced from £585,000 to £1.4 million. A show house is open. Call 020 8658 3743.