

EVENING NES
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Work begins on £180m regeneration project

A £180 MILLION regeneration project to transform Craigmillar was set to finally get underway today.

The 15-year scheme will create thousands of new homes in the area, as well as shops, schools and facilities.

At a special ceremony this morning, religious and council leaders officially marked the first stage of the project, which will see a £13 million campus bringing together St Francis and Niddrie Mill primary schools.

The regeneration will also

include the development of 3200 homes, including affordable homes to rent, three other new schools, a library and a remodelled district centre.

The scheme is being spearheaded by Parc, a joint venture company formed by the EDI Group, Edinburgh City Council and Craigmillar community representatives.

Developers plan to include Dutch-style "home zone" streets where there are no pavements and pedestrians have priority over cars – an

idea pioneered in Holland in the 1970s to create a more family-friendly environment.

The project also includes plans to revamp the Niddrie burn and create a new "Green Quarter" of 150 acres of open parkland.

Parc chairman Councillor Ian Perry welcomed the start of work, saying: "This is a landmark development in the regeneration of Craigmillar."

Council leader Ewan Aitken added: "I am looking forward to 2007 being a year of action for Craigmillar."