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Leicester Mercury article on the opening of the Sparkenhoe estate (first 6 houses) out of 46.



LEICESTER MERCURY, M

BAND AND CHOIR AT HOUSING SITE OPENING

THE FIRST of Newbold Verdon's new housing sites was declared open at a civic ceremony on Sunday afternoon. The site, which is named Sparkenhoe, has 46 houses in course of erection. Six have been completed.

The Barlestone band headed a procession, which formed in Dragon's Lane and paraded through the village streets to the new housing site.

The robed choir of St. James's Parish Church, members of the Methodist and Baptist Churches, Rural District councillors and parish councillors and scholars of the village Sunday School took part.

On arrival at the site Mr. Walter J. Preston, chairman of the Parish Council, and one of the two Newbold Verdon representatives on Market Bosworth R.D.C., welcomed those who were taking part in the ceremony

200 Houses

Mr. Preston said Newbold Verdon would become a very large village on the completion of the other sites, and it was expected 200 houses would be completed in due course.

Mr. Preston then asked the oldst inhabitant, Mrs. L. Wildman, who is 85, to open the new site. He felt especially proud as Mrs. Wildman was his mother-in-law.

Mrs. Wildman, in a brief speech, said: "I am greatly honoured to declare open Sparkenhoe." She then cut a white tape across the road leading to the estate.

A service followed, conducted by the Rev. J. D. Bolton, rector. The Rev. W Charlton, of Barwell, Methodist minister, read the lesson, and a short address was given by the Rev. S. Webb, Baptist minister at Newbold Verdon.

After the service, officials of the council were entertained to tea in the church hall.

Pictures taken at the opening of the Sparkenhoe housing site at Newbold Verdon show the arrival of the procession, and 85 year old Mrs. L. Wildman, the oldest inhabitant, cutting the tape on the road leading to the site.