

Miners really dig latest pigs to spring up in the city

King Bladud's pigs are flying higher than ever in the city as the firm behind the Combe Down Mines Project sponsors its very own porker.

Engineers on the £160 million mines stabilisation project reckon theirs is the highest in the city.

The pig, named Rocky, has been located on top of one of the concrete silos at the work site, and is 540ft above sea level.

It is sponsored by Hydrock, the company responsible for pouring millions of cubic feet of foam concrete into the mines to make them safe.

Project management firm Davis Langdon, meanwhile, has sponsored Dig My Pig, which can be seen outside the Co-op in The Avenue.

Cllr Roger Symonds (Lib Dem, Combe Down) said the pigs illustrated how the workers had been a part of the community for the past nine years.

On Monday, project managers along with residents gathered at the Firs Field site to celebrate the installation of the pigs, which also marked the milestone of 14 million cubic feet of foam concrete having been pumped

into the mines.

The stabilisation project, which began in 1999 to safeguard 700 homes in the area, is on schedule to finish early in 2010.

Cllr Symonds said: "Ten years ago there was little prospect of any stabilisation of the mines, yet here we are nearing the end of the project. I take my hat off to all those who have got us to this stage.

"There has been nothing but praise from residents for all those involved in the project team.

"They have treated people with sensitivity and respect and have always been willing to get involved in the life of the village.

"Sponsoring the pigs is just the latest example of this involvement."

The pigs are due to be auctioned after the King Bladud's Pigs Project comes to an end.

Alan Francis, from Davis Langdon, said: "My company has been pleased to support the Bladud's Pigs project and if the pig is not sold at auction we would be happy for it to be sited somewhere in Combe Down on a permanent basis, perhaps in Firs Field."



YELLOW FELLOW: Dig My Pig with, from left, Alan Francis, of Davis Langdon, Cllr Cherry Beath, Hydrock project manager Rob Narbett, Cllr Roger Symonds, and Mary Sabina Stacey, the council's project leader

PICTURE: Kevin Fern