

# Michael's motel is open for business

by Nial Anderson

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**VISITORS** will be able to rest their weary feet at the Forest's only motel which has opened in Lydney.

The DeanGate Motel, located next to the town council offices in the High Street, was opened on Saturday.

The 13-room motel was the brainchild of local businessman Michael Dowler and it took builders MG Contractors about a year to complete.

With rates starting from £29 per night, it offers three classes of room; Deluxe, Executive and Suite - and there is a room especially equipped for disabled people.

"This will be the first standalone, purpose-built motel in the Forest of Dean," said Michael.

"It's at the gateway to the Forest and all the rooms have been furnished and equipped to a very high standard.

"The disabled facilities we have are the best in west Gloucestershire.

"We're looking at the business and leisure markets along with weddings that are being held in the area."

He added: "We're already fully booked for several weekends over the next couple of months."

Leader of the council Peter Amos and Lydney mayor Bob Berryman opened the state-of-the-art motel which was built on the car park of the former Lydney council offices.

The development is classed as a 'metro hotel' and features keyless entry and mod-cons including flat-screen TVs and free wifi access.

Motels originated in the United States and began cropping up as the country's highway system started developing.

DeanGate is not the first motel to set up shop in the Forest as there used to be one located near to Symonds Yat Rock.

It has now changed to become a self-catering bed and breakfast known as Symonds Yat Rock Lodge, leaving



**LAUNCH:** Michael Gwilliam, left, from MG Contractors hands over the keys to Michael Dowler. Photos: Martin Perry

DeanGate as the only motel in the Forest.

Tourism officer Claire Evans said: "It is great for the area that this motel has opened. Being the only motel in the area it offers people an alternative type of accommodation situated at the gateway to the Forest of Dean."



**PLUSH:** One of the tastefully decorated rooms.