



PRESS RELEASE

Issue date: 20 December 2007

Issue number: 16651- -BF-PR

Buckton Fields planning application registered with Daventry

Thursday 20 December: Daventry District Council has registered the outline planning application to create a mixed use development at Buckton Fields, Northamptonshire, submitted by the Ensign Group Limited.

Before plans were finalised, Ensign delivered a wide-ranging consultation programme including a public exhibition at Kingsthorpe Community College that was attended by over 300 people.

Andrew Wilson, Director of the Ensign Group, comments: "This was a successful public consultation programme. It enabled members of the public to communicate directly with Ensign, voice their concerns and feedback on the emerging proposals for development at Buckton Fields."

Wilson continues: "A huge amount of work has been done to clearly identify and understand specific issues including traffic congestion, flood risk and the retained presence of Smith's Farm Shop in the immediate locality. Ensign has subsequently worked hard to address the points raised and, where possible, constructive comments have been taken on board to help shape the final outline planning application for the site."

Significant changes that public feedback did contribute to in the final application includes a reduction from 1,500 to 1,250 houses in total proposed for the site. If development goes ahead this will help achieve lower housing densities at Buckton Fields, and enable the creation of a green buffer zone between Kingsthorpe and the new development to ensure existing residents bordering the site retain their privacy. Furthermore, the homes proposed by Ensign for the site will be built to a standard two-storey height – but designed with habitable roof spaces to provide occupants with living space over three floors.

Wilson adds: "With respect to the continuing presence of Smith's Farm Shop, Ensign recognises the important role it plays in the local community, and had already engaged in a dialogue with the proprietors prior to the exhibition. In the event that outline planning permission is granted Ensign will work together with the Smith's to identify a solution that means the shop can be incorporated in a future detailed planning application for the site."

A detailed summary of all stakeholder involvement and the public consultation programme (including responses) is available for members of the public to view at the Buckton Fields website www.bucktonfields.co.uk.

The outline planning application registration number is DA/2007/1400 and is available to view in full at www.daventrydc.gov.uk/atoz/planning/index.shtml

For all enquiries regarding the planning application for Buckton Fields please contact Ensign on:

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Address: Freepost RPKG-AZTG-JCJX, Camargue (Buckton Fields), Eagle Tower, Montpellier Drive, Cheltenham, GL50 1TA

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For all media enquiries, please contact

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Notes to Editors:

1. Buckton Fields - Consultation toolkit

The following tools were created/utilised by Ensign to assist in consulting with the community on its proposal for Buckton Fields. They represent a considered response to Daventry District Council's Statement of Community Involvement (December 2006):

- Scheme website – www.bucktonfields.co.uk
- Scheme leaflet – distributed to 12,500 homes in the area
- E-mail feedback address and hotline phone number (used in all scheme materials)
- Exhibition panels for use at a public exhibition
- Stakeholder matrix to identify who should be addressed and in what way/s
- Letters to stakeholders
- Media pack – to communicate the consultation process through the key local media
- Adverts in key local journals highlighting the times of the exhibition

2. Summary of Public Consultation Methodology:

- Discussion and confirmation of consultation methodology with Richard Wood
- Writing to key Daventry District Councillors and key stakeholders from Daventry District Council, Northampton Borough Council, Area Partnership 3, WNDC, Tim Boswell MP, Phil Hollobone MP and Sally Keeble MP, Northamptonshire County Councillors, Boughton Parish Council, Chapel & Church Brampton Parish Councils and other key stakeholders
- Presentation of public engagement programme at Area Partnership 3 meeting
- Creation and distributing 12,500 leaflets
- Launching website
- One-to-one meetings with key stakeholders
- Contacting editors at Daventry Express and Northampton Chronicle and Echo
- Press release to all regional print and broadcast media
- Advert and press release regarding the Public Exhibition published in the local media
- Closed exhibition session for elected members
- Meeting with Adrian Smith (Smith's Farm Shop) and Fred Tomlinson (Boughton Quarry – in-vessel composting facility)
- Public Exhibition plus preview event for councillors and other stakeholders
- Ongoing programme to keep interested parties informed of planning application

3. **Ensign Group Ltd** is a subsidiary of Martin Grant Homes - a privately owned company, founded in 1978 with a reputation for constructing high quality homes and apartments throughout the Home Counties. The company has expanded its operations throughout the south of England, building a reputation as a major force in both strategic land acquisition and new home development.

Maintaining their original philosophy each Ensign property is meticulously planned and professionally built to the highest possible standard. Attention to detail and strict supervision combine to produce individually designed homes that complement the existing environment and surroundings. www.martingranthomes.co.uk