



PRESS RELEASE

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Daventry District Council registers Buckton Fields East planning application

19 May 2008: Daventry District Council has registered the outline planning application to create a 500 home, residential development at Buckton Fields East, Northamptonshire, submitted by the Ensign Group Limited.

The registered application will now be subject to a 21-day consultation process during which members of the public can feed back their comments on the plans to Daventry District Council's Planning Officer. The council's Planning Committee will then take all relevant feedback into account when making its decision.

Andrew Wilson, Director of Ensign Group Ltd comments: "Central government has set substantial targets for Northampton in respect of its housing needs as part of a strategy for sustainable growth. Our decision to submit a separate application for Buckton Fields East came after the Secretary of State wrote to Daventry District Council confirming that the Buckton Fields site will remain allocated for development in the adopted Daventry Local Plan. The site being regarded as key for supporting the delivery of housing within the Milton Keynes and South Midlands Sub-Region and identified growth area."

Building on the lessons learnt during the consultation programme undertaken in relation to Ensign's proposals for the development of the wider Buckton Fields site, a second round of community engagement specifically relating to development at Buckton Fields East took place from November 2007 to January 2008. This gave members of the public a second opportunity to voice any specific concerns relating to the proposed development. Over 250 people attended a public exhibition that took place on 12 December 2007 – many of whom took the opportunity to talk directly with members of Ensign's planning team.

Wilson concludes: "Following the second exhibition, a huge amount of work has been done to identify and understand specific issues and areas of concern including traffic congestion and flood risk. Where possible constructive comments have been taken on board to help to shape the final outline planning application which has now been registered by Daventry District Council."

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/2008/0500 and is available to view in full at <http://www.daventrydc.gov.uk/environment-and-planning/planning/planning-application-search/>

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

Freephone: 0800 988 9141

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 East

Buckton Fields East is a 16.4hectare site located on the eastern side of the wider Buckton Fields site, adjacent to Harborough Road North. Ensign's decision to submit a separate application for Buckton Fields East comes after the Secretary of State wrote to Daventry District Council confirming that the Buckton Fields site will remain allocated for development in the adopted Daventry Local Plan to support the delivery of housing within the Milton Keynes and South Midlands Sub-Region and identified growth area.

2. Consultation Toolkit

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

- Scheme website – the format of the existing website, www.bucktonfields.co.uk, was extensively revised and updated to include information specific to the Buckton Fields East site
- Scheme newsletter – distributed to 10,000 homes in the area
- Continued promotion and use of the existing Buckton Fields e-mail contact address and hotline phone number (detailed in all scheme materials)
- Exhibition panels – displayed at a public exhibition and available to download from the Buckton Fields website
- Stakeholder matrix to identify who should be addressed and in what way/s
- Residents' database – created and updated with contact details upon request of individuals so they can be contacted directly by e-mail or post to update them on progress of the planning application
- Letters to stakeholders
- Direct Mail newsletter and letter mailing to 4,000 residents living adjacent to the site to ensure receipt of information relating to the emerging proposals and pre-application consultation process – in direct response to concerns about distribution raised during the previous consultation programme,
- Press releases – to communicate the consultation process through the key local media
- Adverts in key local journals highlighting the date and time of the exhibition

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

