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STEWARDSHIP

Long-term stewardship is an important aspect of placemaking, community building and management. Bellway Homes Limited and Christ Church, Oxford are planning for the stewardship of this new community in perpetuity.

7.0 Stewardship

The stewardship strategy proposes that the stewardship and community development responsibilities at Water Eaton will be delivered by the Water Eaton Community Management body. The Community Management body be financially sustainable, credible with local stakeholders, and have the flexibility for future expansion if required.

The Applicant intends that the stewardship of the scheme evolves through an ongoing conversation that will develop the details alongside the stewardship proposal and its delivery.

The high level stewardship parameters that have been set out in draft will evolve through discussions with local councils, and (in future stages) with occupiers of the development. These will form the principles for stewardship that are enshrined in the Community Management body.

There will be areas where further discussions will be required with wider stakeholder groups including service providers, potential residents of the scheme, and employers as the proposals develop.

7.1 Stewardship Vision Statement

“The stewardship strategy will deliver the vision for PR6a - that it will be a diverse and healthy mixed-use intergenerational community, connected to its neighbours, to the city, and to nature and the countryside. A place that people value, where sustainability, wellbeing and quality of life are fundamental.”

7.2 Stewardship Model

Practical working relationships have already begun to be developed with local stakeholders that will play a part in the early stages of the Community Management body's work.

We anticipate that the Community Management body will be operated by Christ Church, who may also own the common parts in the longer term, and (during the delivery of the development) Bellway. The Community Management

body will consult with a community liaison group which will be made up of a board of Directors/Trustees who will be elected by local members. The Community Management body will be collegiate in approach, seeking to balance the interests of the local community (including residents and other members from the wider resident, business and voluntary communities) and co-optees from the Parish and District Councils.

7.3 Functions of the Water Eaton Community Body

- *To ensure open spaces and community facilities are for the public benefit of all those who live, work in or visit the area including existing local residents, whilst ensuring that any charges on residents and commercial users of PR6a confer fair advantages and that occupants see value for money for their contributions*
- *To develop a sense of community, and a shared sense of ownership, both within PR6a and between the surrounding settlements, through effective communication and community development activities from first occupation*
- *The Community Management body will be an enabling organisation, empowering and supporting residents to take initiative in developing a cohesive community, embracing sustainable lifestyles, and celebrating and enhancing the ecology of the area. It will do so by developing working links with key stakeholders and community groups in the neighbouring area, playing to local strengths and involving local residents in a healthy and inclusive culture of volunteering*

7.4 Community Assets and Facilities

The proposed roles and the schedule of responsibilities for stewardship at Water Eaton will be set out in more detail at the next stage, but the core responsibility of the Community Management body will be to maintain and manage community assets once the facilities have been created and deemed “fit for purpose”. The assets to be managed by the Community Management body will include the following:

- *Public open space, including retained hedgerows and mature trees, a new eastern green corridor with new native tree, scrub and hedge planting*
- *A Community Centre meeting Cherwell District Council’s specifications for size, flexibility of use in the accommodation and equipment, location and design*
- *The 11ha Cutteslowe Park extension providing a multifunctional green space for the new and existing neighbouring communities, with new native tree and scrub planting alongside species rich grassland. Heritage assets including the Anglo-Saxon barrows preserved under publicly accessible open space, with interpretive information*
- *Allotments, and the potential for other food growing spaces*
- *Above ground SUDS including ditches, swales, wet grassland and a pond balancing system*
- *Formal play areas*

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CONCLUSION

The proposals for this site have been subject to extensive analysis and consultation, and are guided by design principles to deliver the agreed vision for this site. Water Eaton will become a place that the local community will be proud to be part of.

8.0 Conclusion



Bellway Homes Limited and Christ Church, Oxford will create a structure to deliver stewardship and management of and for the new community. This has already begun with wide-ranging consultation and will include the creation of the Water Eaton Community Management body to manage open space and community activities.



The identity of Water Eaton will draw on inspiration from its location, heritage and surroundings. Further engagement with residents and stakeholders will inform the character of this new place, which could be delivered through, for example, public realm design, landscape and planting, views, street names and lighting.



The proposals will deliver much needed new homes, half of which will be Affordable housing. There will be a range of types, including apartments and family housing. A local centre, at the heart of the proposals, will provide a range of shops and facilities, linked to a new Primary School and extensive public spaces.



The design of Water Eaton has focussed on ensuring that access by bicycle and walking will be the key ways of moving around the site with an extensive, well-considered network of routes that also links to the wider area. A wide choice of walking and cycling routes are designed for all users, from leisure to commuter use.



The site's sustainable location and movement strategy will minimise carbon impacts from transport. The energy and sustainability strategy puts in place the foundations for minimising carbon and reducing energy usage as detailed proposals are submitted. There will be no fossil fuels used on site.



The proposals are integrated with a green infrastructure strategy that provides green spaces for people and nature. Accreditation is sought for '[Building with Nature](#)'. Habitat creation and planting will offset the removal of some trees and vegetation and the proposals will likely reach greater than 20% biodiversity net gain.



The proposals encourage better physical and mental health for all residents. Active travel, integration with nature and green spaces including community allotments and gardens will encourage healthy lifestyles. Stewardship and community building will help to create social bonds that assist in safeguarding mental health.



