Annex 17

1st September 2010

AUTUMN PUBLIC CONSULTATION: MASTERPLANNING IN PARTNERSHIP WE NEED YOUR VIEWS

Residents of Bicester and surrounding villages are being asked to give their views on the NW Bicester Eco Development as the next phase of public consultation gets under way this month (September 2010).

For the first ever time, plans for the initial phase of the eco development, known as the Exemplar, will go on display to the public.

The drawings will be available to view online from Thursday 2 September and at local venues from Saturday 4 September. The consultation will run until 17 September 2010. The proposed NW Bicester project, set to provide 5,000 low-energy, zero-carbon homes over the next 20 years, is being led by P3Eco, which facilitates eco developments. P3Eco is working with a consortium of partners including local housing provider A2Dominion and architects and masterplanners Terry Farrell & Partners.

During this latest phase of consultation, the team is also publishing its response to ideas put forward during the June 2010 public consultation phase. This document, 'Testing Masterplan Ideas' is available to read on the new project website <u>www.nwbicester.co.uk</u>.

Also on <u>www.nwbicester.co.uk</u> is a feedback form so the public can respond to the Exemplar exhibition and the 'Testing Masterplan Ideas' document. Public consultation is at the very core of this development, so every view is vital. The feedback form will be available for completion online until Friday 17 September 2010.

To help with understanding the Exemplar plans and response document, a series of public drop-in events are being held in Bicester from Saturday 4 September 2010. At these events, members of the professional team will be on hand to explain and answer any questions on this part of the project. Public drop-in events are being held at:

- Saturday 4th September 2010, 10am-2pm, Methodist Church Hall, Sheep Street, Bicester
- Tuesday 7th September 2010, 6pm-8pm, The Garth, Launton Road, Bicester
- Thursday 9th September 2010, 6pm-8pm, The Garth, Launton Road, Bicester
- Saturday 11th September 2010, 10am-2pm, Methodist Church Hall, Sheep Street, Bicester

P3Eco and the professional team are determined to create a development which will gradually become an organic extension to Bicester, which sits comfortably with and enhances the town.

"Our team is totally committed to public consultation, it plays such an important role in this eco development. We have tried to incorporate the views and ideas submitted during June's Open Planning Week and hope that during this next phase of consultation we can learn even more from the local community," said Ian Inshaw, Chairman of P3Eco, Bicester.

A planning application for the Exemplar site will be submitted to Cherwell District Council later in the year, and residents are urged to get involved with the public consultation to help shape this plan.

Ends.

Notes

The 'NW Bicester: Testing Masterplan Ideas' document summarises the Government's Eco-Town Standards, the local community's opinions gathered during June's Open Planning Week and P3Eco's response to these opinions at the current time.

The NW Bicester Eco Development Project is being led by P3Eco, who facilitate eco developments, and a consortium of partners including local housing provider the A2Dominion Group and world-renowned architects and masterplanners Terry Farrell and Partners. We are working with Bicester Town Council, Cherwell District Council and Oxfordshire County Council to ensure that Bicester is a pioneering model of environmental and community sustainability.

The team has developed a 'Masterplanning in Partnership' approach to NW Bicester. This allows anyone who wants to contribute to do so, including councillors, community representatives and members of the public.

NW Bicester is one of the UK's first designated eco towns. Located in North Oxfordshire, the proposed eco town development is set to provide a zero carbon community of 5,000 homes over the next 20 years, as well as new business and employment opportunities for local people.

For further information, please contact <u>Fiona Brenner</u> 0207 930 3606 or <u>Catherine Nestor</u> on 0207 930 3581.

Become a Friend of the NW Bicester Eco Development : Friends of the NW Bicester Eco Development will receive updates on the project and information about events and ways to contribute to the emerging scheme.

If you would like to become a Friend, email or call us with your contact details for inclusion in the mailing list. Email us: info@nwbicester.co.uk Call us: 020 7930 3606