



Ensign Group Limited

PRESS RELEASE

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Public invited to second Buckton Fields exhibition

The Ensign Group Ltd is inviting local residents from Northampton and the surrounding area to give feedback on emerging proposals relating to a separate planning application for a high quality residential scheme of approximately 500 homes at Buckton Fields.

The proposals relate to Buckton Fields East, a 16.4hectare site located on the eastern side of the wider Buckton Fields site, adjacent to Harborough Road North. Emerging plans will be available for the public to view at an exhibition taking place on Wednesday 12 December from 2pm to 9pm at The Obelisk Centre, Obelisk Rise, Northampton, NN2 8UE. They will also be available to view on the recently updated Buckton Fields website – www.bucktonfields.co.uk.

Andrew Wilson, Director of The Ensign Group Ltd, comments: “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 site will remain allocated for development in the adopted Daventry Local Plan.

Buckton Fields is regarded as key to supporting the delivery of housing within the Milton Keynes and South Midlands Sub-Region and identified growth area, and Ensign believes that development of the Buckton Fields East site will assist with the timely delivery of housing in the Northampton area.”

Members of the planning team and key consultants acting on behalf of Ensign will be on hand throughout the exhibition to answer questions and provide an insight into details of the emerging proposals. Where possible, constructive comments will be taken on board to help shape the outline planning application that is due to be submitted in early 2008.

An outline planning application to create a mixed-use development across the wider Buckton Fields has now been submitted by Ensign to Daventry District Council following a wide-ranging consultation programme that took place throughout April, May, June, and July 2007. That application will be registered in due course and local residents will subsequently be formally consulted directly by the Council.

Wilson continues: “Prior to submitting the outline planning application for Buckton Fields, a huge amount of work was done to work with the local community to clearly identify and understand specific issues regarding development at the site. Where possible, constructive comments have been taken on board to help shape the outline planning application for the wider site, and will also serve to inform the outline application for the Buckton Fields East site.

“This second round of consultation relating to emerging proposals for Buckton Fields East builds on previous consultation, and is an important step in helping Ensign shape the best possible solution for the area.”

- ENDS -

For all media enquiries, please contact

Beth Motley or Verity Ottesen at Camargue PR, on behalf of Ensign Group Ltd.

T: 01242 577277 F: 01242 527277

E: bmotley@camarguepr.com / vottesen@camarguepr.com

Notes to Editors:

1. BUCKTON FIELDS

i. Pre-application consultation

Ensign has worked hard to robustly address the points and issues raised by members of the public during the pre-application consultation programme undertaken prior to submitting the outline planning application for the full Buckton Fields site to Daventry District Council. Over 300 people attended a public exhibition held in May 2007 and, where possible, constructive comments have been taken on board. These include:

- Reducing the proposed number of homes for the site from 1,500 – 1,250 to help achieve lower housing densities, as well as creating a green buffer zone between Kingsthorpe and the site to ensure that existing homes bordering the site retain their privacy; and
- Acknowledging public concerns about the future of Smith's Farm Shop, Ensign has been engaged in discussions with the proprietors to identify different options that could enable the shop's continued presence at Buckton Fields in the event development goes ahead.

ii. Buckton Fields Planning Application

- **Status:** Ensign has now submitted a planning application for Buckton Fields to Daventry District Council
- **Daventry District Council** is due to register Ensign's outline planning application for the wider Buckton Fields development shortly. Once registered the full application will be available to view at: www.daventrydc.gov.uk/atoz/planning/index.shtml. There follows a formal 21-day consultation period undertaken by the council when members of the public are invited to feed back their comments on the plans.
- **Statement of Community Involvement:** A detailed summary of all stakeholder involvement and the public consultation programme (including responses) regarding the proposals relating to the wider Buckton Fields planning application is available to view at the Buckton Fields website: www.bucktonfields.co.uk
- **Post-submission Consultation:** As part of its commitment to post-submission public consultation, Ensign is directly contacting all those people who have registered their contact details with the company to advise them once the Buckton Fields planning application is registered. To received communication from Ensign regarding the planning process please register your contact details with the company using one of the following methods:
 - Hotline:** 0800 988 9141
 - E-mail:** contact@bucktonfields
 - Address:** Freepost RPKG-AZTG-JCJX, Camargue (Buckton Fields), Eagle Tower, Montpellier Drive, Cheltenham, GL50 1TA

2. ENSIGN GROUP LTD

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