

PRESS RELEASE

Ref. number: 16798-BF-PR

Issue date: 27 February 08

Public consultation to shape Buckton Fields East outline planning application

Public consultation on emerging proposals from Ensign Group Ltd for Buckton Fields East¹ has now closed.

Building on the lessons learnt during the consultation programme relating to its proposals for the wider Buckton Fields site, Ensign engaged with members of the public for a second time so they could voice their concerns and feed back on the emerging proposals specifically relating to the Buckton Fields East site.

Over 14,000 newsletters were delivered to homes in the surrounding area to advise people of the consultation process and invite them to attend a public exhibition that took place on 12 December 2007.

Andrew Wilson, Director of the Ensign Group, comments: "Public consultation and community engagement have become increasingly important in the planning and development process. Over 250 people attended the exhibition on 12 December, with many taking the opportunity to talk directly with members of our planning team and ask specific questions relating to the proposed development at Buckton Fields East.

"Following the exhibition Ensign received feedback forms from over 100 people. All of the concerns raised have been thoroughly reviewed and, where possible, constructive comments will be taken on board to help shape the outline planning application for Buckton Fields East."

Ensign anticipates submitting an outline planning application for Buckton Fields East to Daventry District Council this spring. Members of the public who are interested in receiving communication from Ensign updating them on the planning process as it progresses are invited to register their contact details with the company using any one of the methods detailed below:

Call us on freephone: 0800 988 9141

E-mail us: contact@bucktonfields.co.uk

¹ The Secretary of State wrote directly to Daventry District Council confirming that the Buckton Fields site would remain allocated in the Daventry Local Plan in September 2007 to support the delivery of housing in the Milton Keynes and South Midlands identified growth area. Following this announcement Ensign decided to submit a separate outline planning application for Buckton Fields East – an area of land that lies within the wider Buckton Fields site adjacent to Harborough Road North – to assist with the timely delivery of housing in and around Northampton.

Write to us: Freepost RRGK-AZTG-JCJX, Camargue (Buckton Fields), Eagle Tower, Montpellier Drive, Cheltenham, GL50 1TA

A full Statement of Community Engagement (SCE) will be submitted as part of the final planning application. This will be available for interested parties to view at www.bucktonfields.co.uk

- ENDS -

FOR ALL MEDIA ENQUIRIES, PLEASE CONTACT:

Verity Ottesen or Gemma Rae at Camargue PR, on behalf of Ensign Group Ltd.

T: 01242 577277 F: 01242 527277

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

EDITORS NOTE:

1. BUCKTON FIELDS EAST: Pre-application consultation Programme

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 (December 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

2. STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT (SCE)

A Statement of Community Engagement setting out how, where and when the community has been involved in the preparation of our proposal for development at Buckton Fields East will be prepared following the consultation period. This will be prepared by Camargue Group - external consultants acting on behalf of Ensign – demonstrating how feedback gathered from the community over the course of the exhibition has helped shape our formal outline planning application for Buckton Fields East.

The SCE will be submitted as part of Ensign's outline planning application for Buckton Fields East. It will be available to download from www.bucktonfields.co.uk once the application has been submitted to, and registered by, Daventry District Council.

3. 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