

St Modwen/Bird Group, Middle Quinton

Balanced Reception Given For Eco Town Middle Quinton Vision

Local people have given the proposed ECO Town development in Middle Quinton a balanced response at a series of local exhibitions in the area. Developers St Modwen and the Bird Group displayed plans to develop 6,000 carbon neutral homes as well as retail, commercial and leisure provisions to provide over 3,000 jobs.

Almost 500 local residents attended the events which took the proposals on an exhibition road show to Stratford, Long Marston (on site), Evesham and Chipping Campden.

John Dodds of St Modwen was present at all of the exhibition events and commented:

“This initial consultation was arranged to meet a Government timetable to engage with the public by the end of June. It will be followed by others, to which we hope to attract more interest and feedback.

“We were extremely interested to see what kind of reaction we would receive from the community both locally and wider afield. Being able to confirm that the site is not contaminated and only two percent of it is situated in an area of flood risk, along with other information, was very important to confirm to allay fears.

“We were also encouraged to hear from many residents who told us that they or their children were in need of an affordable home and were particularly keen on learning more about this aspect, the type and size of housing and when the houses would be built.

“With this, coupled with the enhancing of the local infrastructure and the prospect of new jobs and plenty of local investment, I am convinced we have a scheme that will be of significant benefit to the Stratford area.”

The exhibitions come at the same time as a poll is released showing overwhelming support for ECO towns amongst the general public. Polling company YouGov found that 46 per cent of those sampled supported the concept, with just 9 per cent against. Green Issues Communications, a community consultation agency, arranged the events on behalf of the developers:



Richard Halderthay, Account Director, Green Issues added:

“The exhibitions were well attended by the community and attendees were clearly interested in finding out the facts behind the Middle Quinton vision to help them form their views. We welcome the feedback, which contained some many interesting comments, which the project team will now carefully consider. We plan to be able to inform the community in the near future about how the evolving scheme has adapted following the consultation, for example in terms of comments on community facilities and the need for more detailed analysis on transport infrastructure.”

“We will take this feedback and produce a comprehensive exhibition report, which we will present to St Modwen and the Bird Group as well as send out to all those who left their contact details with us.”

The government's consultation deadline for all of the ECO town sites is the end of June. Middle Quinton is one of 15 proposals bidding to be short listed down to 10. It is anticipated that the shortlist announcement will be made in either September or October this year.

<ENDS>

Notes for editors

Almost 500 people attended the exhibition. This attendance is broken down as follows:

Stratford-upon-Avon – 108

Long Marston – 165

Evesham – 103

Chipping Campden – 118

Over 150 attendees have returned feedback forms. These are being analysed prior to a formal report being issued of comments made by local people. Some comments currently received include:

“Good to see the rail links to London, B’ham etc.”

“Keyworker scheme for key employees in the public sector e.g. Teachers etc. Affordable housing [needed] for a sustainable community.”

“[need to] keep as many trees as possible.”



“The public transport must be good, the present B4632 Campden Road won’t cope.”

“[need] housing for older people”

“A selection of shops – more than one store [wanted] but not a supermarket.”

“Suitable facilities [required] for older people”

“Build/create the full infrastructure proposals from the start i.e. simultaneous with the housing, not after!”

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