

8 May 2014

**Land at Horndean Road, Emsworth
Statement of Community Engagement**

1. This statement details the process of Community Engagement undertaken during the pre-application process for a housing development on land at Horndean Road, Emsworth, Hampshire on behalf of Chidden Farms.
2. A Public Consultation Exhibition was held on the 29th October 2013 between 2pm and 8pm at Emsworth Methodist Church.
3. Six hundred leaflet invitations to the Public Consultation were distributed to local households (see attached) and notice of the event was published on the community website, Emsworthonline.co.uk. Personal invitations were sent out to Emsworth Residents Association, Emsworth Flood Action Group, and local councillors.
4. A series of five display boards were created to describe and illustrate the studies carried out, constraints identified, and the housing development concept masterplan, the landscape design, access roads and circulation, ecological benefits and enhancement measures, as well as the flood alleviation measures.
5. On 29th October 2013 135 people attended the Public Consultation, and 36 left comments on the feedback sheets provided. A detailed analysis of comments was made (see attached).
6. The comments received at the Public Consultation revealed that the principle concerns fell into five categories as described and summarized below:
 - a. **Traffic:** the potential need for traffic calming measures on Horndean Road, and whether one road into the site was sufficient
 - b. **Scale and layout:** inadequate parking, and too many homes for the size of the site, and too close to boundaries with neighbouring properties
 - c. **Flood alleviation scheme:** whether the scheme will work, and consequently whether flooding issues will worsen for neighbouring properties;
 - d. **Strain on local facilities, infrastructure, and need for increased provision:** increased strain on schools and doctors, a degradation of the area, and the loss of gap between settlements.
7. Following the Public Consultation a Design Consultation Forum (DCF) took place on 9th December 2013 at Havant Borough Council. Attendees included councillors, residents' association representatives and members of the public.
8. The DCF, organised by Havant Borough Council, included a presentation by the applicant's design team and included how the proposals had been revised in response to some of the concerns raised at the Public Consultation:

- a. Increasing vehicular access points;
 - b. Revising boundary alignments and treatments.
9. Havant Borough Council provided an account of the outcome of the Design Consultation Forum in their document *Development Consultation Form, Land West Horndean Road (UE13), 9th December 2013*. Concerns raised by Horndean Road Residents, Emsworth Resident's Association, Councillors, and members of the public may be summarised as follows:
 - a. **Horndean Road Residents:** the site is unsound due to reliance on flood alleviation scheme, the increase from 110 to 140 dwellings, when compared to other sites it was commented that Horndean Road is further from local schools and that its impact on the Local Gap is greater. Furthermore, it was felt that three storey dwellings were too high, that traffic increases will be problematic, and sewerage facilities are at full capacity. There was a concern about safety around the existing pond, trees subject to TPO, and there ought to be additional screening of the site;
 - b. **Emsworth Resident's Association:** there was also concern about the increase in housing numbers, and whether developers agree to work with Hampshire County Council and the Environment Agency with regards to flooding – they expressed the need felt for a legally binding agreement concerning the flood risk. Traffic was also a concern and safety measures relating to this.
 - c. **Councillors:** the principle queries from councillors were how water would travel from the north of Southleigh Road into the scheme, and why there is no pedestrian/cycle link within the scheme. Tree species were also queried, as well as the traffic and speed issues along Southleigh Road that are believed would be exacerbated by the proposed development. Concerns were raised over the shrinking gap between settlements and the potential strains on local infrastructure
 - d. **Members of the public:** queries about house martins were raised, the impact on the Warblington Crossing, and the timescale following submission of the application
10. The applicant's design team responses to some of the concerns raised during the DCF to date are summarised as follows:
 - a. Safety concerns of children around open water:
 - i. The ditches will be fenced off and buffered with native shrub planting through a design that partially conceals access provided for maintenance; however visibility will be maintained as an important aspect of security;
 - ii. The main wetland pond slopes very gradually to the drainage channel which is shallow, some railings and steps could be provided in places in case of emergency;

- iii. Existing pond currently shown as being open, with sides that are graded gradually, and a viewing deck – railings and steps could be provided to enable escape from the pond.
- b. Tree species close to new houses:
 - i. Proposed trees along the Horndean Road frontage (which would be within the rear gardens of new housing) would be Greenspire lime (*Tilia cordata* Greenspire). This variety of lime has been specially developed for street situations and is suitable for narrower spaces, while giving a strong street presence over the long term and continuing the tree-lined character of Horndean Road;
 - ii. On the Southleigh Road frontage oaks are proposed, also to give a strong long term street presence but with a more rural character which fits the location at the countryside edge. These are proposed only where a distance of 8-10m from the proposed houses is possible.
- c. A number of ecological features have been incorporated as per recommendations from Paul Whitby at Azure Ecology:
 - i. Nest boxes, sparrow terraces, bat boxes
 - ii. Herpetofauna tunnel
 - iii. Plug planting to enhance banks of existing pond
 - iv. Native grass planting and mixes – both wet and dry
 - v. Native wildflower mix planting
 - vi. Reed bed channel for drainage to enter pond