

For immediate release: 04 December 2020

Engaging the Community as Planning Starts for Regeneration of North Street, Guildford

St Edward to share ideas and ask community to get involved

Community engagement for the planning of the long overdue redevelopment of Guildford's North Street is set to begin this month, as St Edward Homes is set to agree terms with Guildford Borough Council (acting as landowner and regeneration authority) on its landholdings.

St Edward, a joint venture between the Berkeley Group and M&G Investments, will be sharing early ideas for the delivery of a new bus station, high quality new homes, a mixture of flexible commercial spaces and fantastic new public realm on the site.

St Edward will be hosting a series of online sessions, starting at 6pm on the 14th December for people to listen in and ask questions to the team, including the developer's architects JTP. The session will also be recorded and posted on their dedicated website for those unable to attend the live meeting.

Viewers will be able to register for events and see plans, ideas and proposals at www.northstreetregeneration.co.uk as well as sign up to newsletters for information updates.

The community will be invited to feed into these early ideas, and input into the designs as they progress in detail throughout the planning process.

With the restrictions around the pandemic likely to be in place for some time, St Edward will be focussing the consultation online through a series of interactive events until it is safe to commence face-to-face consultation.

St Edward and GBC (acting as landowner and regeneration authority) will be working together through an iterative engagement process with the intention that a planning application will be submitted in summer 2021.

Commenting Joss Bigmore, Leader of Guildford Borough Council said: "This is an exciting moment for Guildford, marking the first key milestone in securing a high-quality new quarter for our historic town centre. We hope to conclude our negotiations with St Edward very soon and pave the way for them to acquire all of the land required for their proposed development. For too long, proposals have long been discussed and never realised. With their enviable record for delivery, we have the utmost confidence in

Engaging the Community as Planning Starts for Regeneration of North Street, Guildford /2

St Edward as the partner to turn these ideas into a reality but we wish to stress that the scheme needs to be right for Guildford.”

Lead Councillor for Regeneration, Cllr John Rigg said: “Whilst the final decision about the acceptability of any scheme will be down to the Council in its capacity as local planning authority, as a landowner and regeneration authority, we intend to work closely with St Edward to ensure our residents, businesses and those who work in the town have plenty of opportunities to have their say and help us to shape the mixed-use development based on high quality design and placemaking which is respectful of the historic town centre environment.”

Commenting for St Edward Homes, Paul Vallone, Executive Chairman said: “We are proud and excited to be working with Guildford Borough Council and Surrey County Council to take these development proposals forward. The North Street Regeneration has the opportunity to be a high quality development, which the community of Guildford can be proud of for generations to come. In these early stages, we want the people of Guildford – and the surrounding community, regular visitors and workers coming into the town - to help shape our plans – its architecture and what it can give back to the community. To this end we will be starting a full programme of public engagement in December and we very much hope everyone will want to get involved.”

To register for the community webinar on the 14th December at 6pm, visit www.northstreetregeneration.co.uk.

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Image: St Edward North Street Regeneration - Aerial image of site

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