

PUBLIC CONSULTATION EVENT ANNOUNCED FOR PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT IN CHIGWELL

June 2016.

Freetown Homes is arranging a public consultation event on **Saturday July 16** to allow local residents the opportunity to give their views on a proposed housing-led mixed use development on land off Hainault Road, in Chigwell.

Details of the housing-led mixed use development proposal will be going on display at The Limes Centre, Chigwell, between 11am and 2pm and local residents are invited to attend.

Members of the professional team behind the development will be on hand to explain the proposals in more detail and answer any questions that local residents may have. There will also be an opportunity to look at the Illustrative Masterplan and other information about the development and to fill in a questionnaire, with all comments being fed back to the design team.

“The questionnaire is an important part of the process and all returns will be taken into account prior to the next stage in the promotional process,” explained Tony Aspbury, Freetown Homes’ planning consultant.

The proposal seeks to provide around 200 high-quality family homes across a range of sizes and tenures, including Government-backed starter homes. a nursing/care home, a primary school, small offices/professional consulting premises and sustainable drainage measures, on a 15.5 hectare site, presently owned by Freetown Homes’ directors.

The development would be served by a new purpose-built vehicular access, adjacent to The Victory Hall on Hainault Road, as well as internal pedestrian and cycle routes, connecting to the surrounding network, that would allow and encourage residents to walk or cycle to local facilities including the nearby underground station, bus stops, shops and other local facilities.

The rest of the land in the Freetown ownership, lying to the east of the area proposed for development, would remain in agricultural use, but would but would incorporate measures to enhance its rural character and appearance, to increase bio-diversity and to improve managed public access. This area would remain subject to Green Belt protection.

Tony Aspbury added: “We have opted for a weekend event to try and attract as many local residents from the Chigwell area as possible. We are very keen to engage with the local community and hear their views both on the principal and on the detailed layout and design of the development, which are a vital part of the planning and design process.”

Freetown Homes is mindful that any development plans within Chigwell are extremely sensitive – not least because of the current extent of the Green Belt - and is keen still to work within the framework of the proposed Epping Forest Local and the Chigwell Neighbourhood Plans as far as possible, whilst also promoting an early planning application.

“We want to engage with the community constructively to discuss the merits of housing-led mixed use development here and the form it might take, as expressed through a draft Illustrative Masterplan. The feedback from this process would then inform the planning application and development plan process as they progress.”

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