

WERRINGTON NORTH EXHIBITION – a report from the organisers, DLP Planning Ltd.

Initial concepts for the proposed development site to the north of Werrington were showcased last October at venues in Werrington and Glinton. The exhibitions were attended by DLP Planning Ltd (planning consultants for the project), a number of other members from the professional team, parish and neighbourhood councillors and members of the public.

The consultation exercises were held to acquire feedback from residents and stakeholders who, of course, have first hand knowledge of the local area and the key issues that concern them.

The exhibition at Werrington was greatly welcomed and gave rise to a number of useful, informative comments including:

*“the proposed North Werrington development **will not impact** on the present township if **additional community features** are incorporated.”*

*“houses should be **styled to fit in** with the rest of North Werrington.”*

*“properties should be **environmentally sound**”*

*“the railway crossing should be updated and made **safer** to cross”*

*“a **mix of housing** for young and old allows young people to get on the property ladder”*

*“**provision of spaces for youth activities** are important to prevent vandalism”*

There was general support for the idea that the development will be an extension to Werrington and, in particular, there was an overwhelming support for the need to ensure that a wide range of housing mix is provided including affordable housing suitable for young people, families and the elderly. There was also support for the need to ensure that new development is designed to be environmentally sustainable and energy efficient although this was not stressed as strongly as it was amongst the Glinton community.

Concern about traffic issues was also less strongly expressed although this was still the most important issue raised by many people. Concerns were raised at the exhibition relating to potential increases in traffic which will be addressed as part of the ongoing transportation strategy but key factors to consider were the need to improve safety at the existing railway crossing and also to deal with the difficulties of safe access to Arthur Mellows Village College (AMVC).

The effect on local services was also stressed with the importance of providing a new primary school (and making sure there is enough capacity at AMVC) being a main consideration along with expanding local health care provision.

The crucial feedback collated from the exhibition will be used to inform the development proposals which can now be progressed further. For example, the comments can assist in working towards more detailed development composition and style.

It is envisaged that a further public exhibition will be held later in 2007 before the final proposals are drawn up. (Jeremy – Geoff would like this para in bold please)