

Friday, 15th October 2004

Immediate Release

SecondSite seeks local views on future of Northfleet West site

SecondSite Property has begun public consultation on its plans to regenerate the Northfleet West Sub-Station site to deliver a new sustainable 1,500 home community...and wants to know what local people think. This site is part of the Eastern Quarry site, near Swanscombe, which has itself been earmarked for over 7,000 new homes in the Government's development plans for the Thames Gateway.

SecondSite is the property arm of National Grid Transco and the rationalisation of the Sub-Station site will pave the way for the regeneration of the site.

SecondSite is proposing to build 1,500 new homes, ranging from larger family houses to flats. It is expected that around one-third of the homes will be affordable, helping young people in Dartford Borough, as well as nurses, policemen, teachers and the like, to be able to live in the area and get on the property ladder. The scheme also provides local shops, office space for small businesses, community facilities, a new primary school and extensive open space, including a new public park.

SecondSite is holding public exhibitions this week at which local people will be able to study the plans, meet the team and judge for themselves. The exhibitions will be held at:

- **Thursday 21st October, from 5pm to 9pm at Greenhithe Community Centre**
- **Friday 22nd October, from 4pm to 8pm at Swanscombe Leisure Centre**
- **Saturday 23rd October, from 10am to 6pm at Swanscombe Leisure Centre**

Commenting on the plans, Philip Edwards of SecondSite commented:

"The decommissioning of much of the sub-station site gives us a tremendous opportunity to create a diverse, thriving and sustainable new community at Northfleet West, designed and built to the highest standards. To help us deliver the best possible scheme, we are keen to know what local residents think of our plans. I hope as many people as possible can come along to our exhibitions. We need their comments and suggestions.

"A high priority for us is to make sure that the site is properly integrated with the existing communities at Swanscombe and Greenhithe and that all residents, old and new, can enjoy the benefits that our scheme will deliver. The fact that a third of our planned development would be given over to attractive open spaces is an important element of this."

SecondSite has placed sustainable transport provision at the heart of its proposals. The scheme will help to deliver the Fastrack bus service, a dedicated high-speed bus link to major destinations in the area, including Bluewater and the new Ebbsfleet rail station, and a Fastrack stop will be at the core of the new development. An extensive network of footpaths and cycleways are also proposed, both within the scheme and also providing linkages with the neighbouring towns.

Anyone with any questions, suggestions or comments on SecondSite's proposals for the Northfleet West site can call the SecondSite Community Information Line on 020 7491 0991 or visit www.northfleetwest.info.

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For further information, please contact Simon Phillips on 0207 529 1736.

The Northfleet West Sub-Station site is 90 acres in size and consists of three electricity substations, electricity cables and pylons and farmland. It is located in the southeast corner of Eastern Quarry, bounded to the south by the A2 and to the east by Southfleet Road. The site is owned by SecondSite.

The rest of the Eastern Quarry site is owned by Land Securities, who are bringing forward their own development plans. SecondSite's proposals are entirely separate from Land Securities' plans for the rest of Eastern Quarry, but are entirely compatible with them.

A Masterplan image of SecondSite's proposed scheme is provided with this press release.