

For Immediate Release

14 October 2020

**Hear more about our plans for Weyside Urban Village:
1,500 homes to be built on brownfield land**

We have two more online public exhibitions in October and November which anyone can attend to find out more about our proposed exciting riverside development in Guildford. These follow our successful online events in July and August, where we welcomed over 200 residents, over three quarters of whom supported our plans.

The 41-hectare Weyside Urban Village project, which will deliver approximately 1,500 homes on brownfield land, is an ambitious plan to create a green and thriving community alongside the River Wey. In addition to new, high-quality homes, the proposals also include new community facilities, measures to lower carbon emissions, improved access to a bigger, dedicated nature reserve as well as new work and commercial spaces.

These exhibitions are being held online due to Coronavirus (Covid-19) restrictions:

- Thursday 22 October, 6.30-7.30pm: The Emerging Proposals
- Wednesday 4 November, 6.30-7.30pm: Presentation of the Final Proposals

Lead Councillor for Housing and Development Control, Cllr Caroline Reeves says:

"We encourage residents and local businesses to find out more about this exciting new chapter in Guildford's future. We aren't able to hold face-to-face sessions as we would have liked, due to Coronavirus (Covid-19) and government guidance, so instead we are offering further online presentations as a quick and easy way to learn more. The development will rejuvenate the site and its surroundings to give us much needed housing for all ages both from the borough and attracting new residents to live here. The proposed village will appeal to all, from young commuters to families and those downsizing into retirement."

She continues: "Hearing what our residents have to say on these key issues will form an important part of the Weyside Urban Village masterplan. It was fantastic to see so many residents learn about and comment on this exciting new chapter in the borough's future through the first five exhibitions and we look forward to welcoming our residents back for the next events."

Lead Councillor for Major Projects, Cllr John Rigg says:

"Weyside Urban Village will be a huge benefit to Guildford, bringing new employment opportunities and community space to residents. We'll also be providing excellent infrastructure and active travel improvements, including pedestrian and cycle paths into the town centre, extended educational facilities and exciting employment opportunities.

"Climate change is one of our key priorities and the project will prioritise environmental impact throughout the process. The future is our young people and those growing up here or moving into the area. They want affordable sustainable living with high quality public space, leisure and cultural experiences and we aim to deliver this vision."

October's exhibition will feature a question and answer session for the public to ask more on the proposals. The Project Team will also respond to feedback provided during the summer. In November the Project Team will present the final proposals before submitting a Planning Application.

Places can be booked by registering at www.weysideurbanvillage.co.uk/consultation – everybody who registers will receive an email with instructions on how to attend the exhibitions. Recordings will be available to watch at www.weysideurbanvillage.co.uk. Copies of the presentation can also be posted to residents on request.

The first five exhibitions, which were attended by over 200 residents, featured all parts of the development including surrounding infrastructure, transport and highways and climate change and sustainability. They can still be watched at www.weysideurbanvillage.co.uk/downloads. Paper copies of these exhibitions can be requested by calling the Project Team on 020 7399 2294 or emailing josephb@curtinandco.com.

Over three quarters of people who gave feedback during the first five exhibitions support the project. Members of the public asked 379 questions, with 102 feedback forms completed and more comments received via online questionnaires. 76% of people who replied support our Weyside Urban Village plans, with 73% finding the online exhibitions either very useful or somewhat useful.

We welcome your views on the development – questions, comments and ideas can be submitted either via www.weysideurbanvillage.co.uk, by calling 0207 399 2294, or emailing weyside.urban.village@guildford.gov.uk.