

28 October 2021
For immediate release

Consultation launches on plans for a thriving new community in Braintree

Public consultation has launched on plans for a new residential led mixed-use development on a site known as Land East of Great Notley. The site is allocated as a strategic growth location in the draft Braintree District Local Plan.

A group of developers called the Great Notley East Consortium, which includes Bloor Homes, Bellway Homes, Martin Grant Homes and Miller homes, is seeking feedback on their plans to develop up to 1,750 high quality homes alongside a range of new community facilities, local shops and green spaces.

The Consortium has already worked closely with officers at Braintree District Council and Essex County Council to develop a masterplan which both complements the existing development of Great Notley and incorporates new approaches to urban design and masterplanning. The consultation, which is running from **Thursday 28 October to Monday 22 November**, is the next stage in the planning process. The project team wants to hear and consider the views of local people ahead of submitting a planning application to Braintree District Council.

The proposals include:

- Extensive open green space and connections to provide leisure and health opportunities and to open up the countryside and access to nature – including new footpaths and cycle paths and enhancements to existing public rights of way
- A focus on cycling and walking integrating into existing cycle routes and footpaths to give access to Braintree, Great Notley, Chelmsford and the surrounding countryside
- Measures to increase biodiversity including tree planting, new ponds and wetlands, and new hedgerows.
- Bringing the historic buildings at Hayeswood Farm back to life creating new employment opportunities and community spaces.
- A new primary school, sports pitches and changing facilities, parks and play areas, allotments and community facilities.
- High quality new homes, including affordable homes, with a range of tenures to support existing and new communities.

Robert White of White Peak Planning, speaking on behalf of the Great Notley East Consortium, said: “At the heart of our plans lies a vision for a thriving new district in Braintree. As well as providing new much-needed homes to meet the strategic growth need of the area, we want to create a well-connected community that encourages healthy living and enjoys increased access to nature.

“Our plans include the creation of sports pitches, parks and play areas that will encourage increased outdoor activity. We have also mapped out pedestrian and cycle routes into Great Notley, Braintree and Chelmsford, offering sustainable ways to travel into nearby towns. There will also be new social spaces for residents to meet, eat and drink, a new primary school and an employment hub.

“We are keen to work with the local community to deliver the best possible scheme for Braintree. It is really important that we hear their views at this stage to ensure the plans we submit reflect the needs of the people who will live there and who already live in the area.”

As part of the Consultation, the Great Notley East Consortium is holding both an in-person and online event. People are invited to come along find out more about the proposals and to ask the project team any questions.

The in-person consultation event will be held on **2 November 2021 from 4pm – 7.30pm**. It will take place: **The Church in Great Notley, Bridge End Lane, Great Notley, Braintree, Essex, CM77 7GN.**

The online event will be held on **11 November 2021 from 6pm – 7.30pm**. You can register your attendance in advance at www.greatnotleyeast.co.uk.

For anyone unable to attend the events, the project website www.greatnotleyeast.co.uk has information about the project and consultation along with a range of options for submitting feedback.

Feedback can also be provided via the website, at the events, via email to info@greatnotleyeast.co.uk or in writing to Great Notley East, Camargue, Eagle Tower, Cheltenham, GL50 1TA.

The deadline for submission of comments to this consultation is Monday 22 November.

For more information about this consultation or advice on submitting feedback people can contact the project team directly by calling 0800 860 6256 or sending an email to info@greatnotleyeast.co.uk.

ENDS

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