

# **CROSS QUARTER, ABBEY WOOD SUMMARY OF PUBLIC CONSULTATION TO DATE**

NOVEMBER 2012



[www.cqabbeywood.co.uk](http://www.cqabbeywood.co.uk)

## **Cross Quarter Stakeholder Consultation**

Development Securities (Abbey Wood) Limited and its professional consultants are committed to engaging with local stakeholders and the community throughout the development of the retail and residential mixed use proposals for Cross Quarter, in the heart of Abbey Wood.

Specialist community relations consultants M&N Communications have been managing the consultation programme, and providing a direct contact between the Cross Quarter team and local stakeholders. Activity to date has included:

**Engaging local residents** through an introductory letter sent to over 400 addresses, a workshop held on 5 September and engagement with the Thistlebrook Traveller community.

**Engaging local businesses** through regular meetings, a workshop held on 6 September and ongoing correspondence to update on progress and answer any questions on the proposals.

**Engaging wider community** through Public Exhibitions on 21 and 22 September, and supporting promotion in the local media.

**Political/key stakeholder engagement** through ongoing liaison with Royal Greenwich and Bexley Councils, including a preview for members on 20 September. Regular liaison with Trust Thamesmead, Teresa Pearce MP, Boxgrove Primary School and Bexley College. Regular engagement with Crossrail to ensure an integrated approach to public realm and site connectivity.

## **Feedback Analysis**

### **Workshops**

Workshop sessions were held for local residents on 5 September - 22 attendees, and local businesses on 6 September – 10 attendees. A summary of the feedback received at the workshops is as follows:

- Cross Quarter vision positively received
- Want to see it happen as soon as possible.
- Abbey Wood centre needs investment and regeneration, as it is underused, lacks variety and has become rundown.

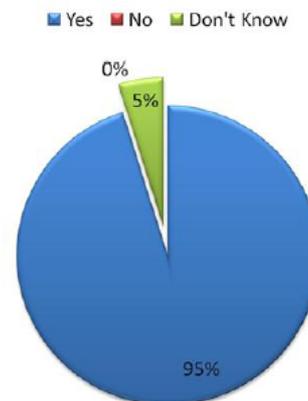
- Sainsbury's supermarket well received and desire to see it interact with existing businesses to secure footfall benefits.
- Public square, quality housing and the hotel received positive feedback from the individual groups, drawing more people and spend to the area.
- Similarly start-up business units were viewed as a way of encouraging people to the area, and offering the younger generation more local job opportunities.
- Safety and security require further consideration: public square CCTV and regular security patrols were suggested.
- Desire to ensure that on-street car parking pressures on Felixstowe Road and Boxgrove Road do not worsen, particularly the impact of the new Early Years nursery facility.

### Public Exhibition

Of the 205 people that attended the public exhibitions on 21-22 September, 106 left completed comments cards, on which the following results have been compiled.

#### Regeneration of the Cross Quarter site

**95% of respondents stated 'Yes'** they support the regeneration of the Cross Quarter site.



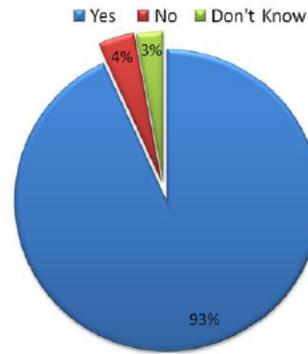
#### Responding to the needs of the local area

**91% of respondents stated 'Yes'**, the proposals do meet the needs of Abbey Wood.



## A supermarket for Abbey Wood

**93% of respondents stated 'Yes' they welcome a Sainsbury's supermarket in Abbey Wood.**



## Public Square

32% of respondents stated they would like the public square used for relaxation, with seating areas; 25% of respondents would like to see the public square used for events and entertainment; 15% of respondents liked the idea of family uses being incorporated in the square, and temporary market stalls were suggested by 17% of respondents.



In addition, the team received a number of positive comments regarding the potential to include a public library as part of the Cross Quarter scheme.

### **Standout quotes**

*"Along with Crossrail this proposed development should raise Abbey Wood's profile and people's aspirations"*

*"It is great to see the area being redeveloped"*

*"Will be great to walk to the shops rather than having to drive"*

*"Abbey Wood needs something to bring people together - there is a great divide between the old estate and the new estate."*

*"Long awaited. Regeneration that is needed."*

*"Hopefully more jobs for local people and if you build a nice site people will keep it looking nice; engender some pride in the area."*

*"AW has been neglected for too long and this development will bring the area to life"*

*"It would be excellent to have a supermarket in Abbey Wood"*

*"The possible library would be very welcome"*

*"Excellent news - the existing retail is fragmented and outdated and not value for money compared to a national supermarket"*

*"This is a wonderful development that must and should be vigorously pursued"*

## **Next Steps**

Given the overwhelming support vocalised to date for both the scheme and the jobs it will provide, the Cross Quarter team is now working up the scheme design and assessments for the hybrid planning application submission, incorporating responses to safety and security and on-street car parking issues raised by stakeholders.

The team is looking to submit this major planning application to the Royal Borough of Greenwich Council by the end of 2012, for consideration within the 13 week target determination date.

If approved in early 2013, construction work could start on site in late 2013, with the supermarket, first residential completions and public square being delivered in mid 2015.

The Cross Quarter website, [www.cqabbeywood.co.uk](http://www.cqabbeywood.co.uk) will be kept up to date with news on our progress and also contact details for anyone wanting further information.

