

30 August 2007

VINEYARD GATE EXHIBITION TO OPEN THIS WEEKEND - YOUR CHANCE TO COMMENT

A public exhibition about the proposals for Colchester's Vineyard Gate site opens its doors at 10.00am on Saturday 1st September.

The event forms an important part of a wide ranging public consultation process being undertaken by developer Vineyard Gate Developments Ltd (VGD). It follows the launch of a website (www.vineyardgate.org) and the delivery of newsletters to around 42,000 homes in the Colchester area.

The public exhibition is being held in the former Shoe World premises at St James' House on Queen Street. It will run from Saturday 1 September until Saturday 15 September. Opening times are 8.00am - 5.00pm Monday to Friday, and 10.00am - 5.00pm on Saturdays and Sundays. The exhibition will be closed all day on Tuesday 11 September.

Local residents and business people are invited to visit the exhibition to give feedback on the initial proposals and ideas for Vineyard Gate and meet members of the VGD Development Team.

The exhibition will also provide an opportunity to view and comment on the submissions made in the three architectural competitions that the developer is holding to help to determine the look of key elements of the new scheme - the exterior of the department store building, a new bridge over Southway and a new public space adjacent to the historic Town Wall. The winning entries will be integrated into the overall design - being created by Colchester-based architects Stanley Bragg - to ensure that Vineyard Gate provides an interesting and varied townscape that will be unique and relevant to Colchester.

Residents unable to visit the exhibition in person can provide feedback via the Vineyard Gate website (www.vineyardgate.org), by email (info@vineyardgate.org) or by writing to Vineyard Gate Developments Ltd, c/o Halogen, Bridge House, 63-65 North Wharf Road, London W2 1LA.

Vineyard Gate aims to make a real contribution to the regeneration of St Botolph's and the wider Colchester area with a high quality, well designed development with new shops (including a department store), a new bus station, parking and town centre homes. The scheme will also provide an improved setting for the Town Wall and retain and incorporate a number of other historical buildings.

Commenting on the exhibition, Richard Weatherhead of Vineyard Gate Developments, said: "We want to work with local residents and businesses to create a scheme that Colchester can be proud of, something that is unique and relevant to the town's future and respectful of its rich history. The feedback we receive is important to us we hope that as many people as possible will visit the exhibition or log onto our website to find out more about the proposals and provide us with comments. The suggestions made by members of the public will be taken into account as the scheme design is progressed towards a planning application and beyond."

Cllr Brian Jarvis, Portfolio Holder for Regeneration, said: "This is your chance to have your say on the Vineyard Gate development which will play an important part in helping us to renew, regenerate and rediscover our town, while creating an even better Colchester. I would urge both residents and businesses to visit the exhibition and share their thoughts to help make sure that the scheme is right for Colchester."

ENDS

For more information, please contact:
Andy Konieczko or Linda Welch
HALOGEN
T | 020 7087 3260
M | 07866 728 636
E | andy.konieczko@halogenuk.com

Notes:

- Vineyard Gate Developments Ltd is a wholly owned subsidiary of Caddick Developments Ltd. Established in 1979, Caddick is a leading developer with a strong track record of delivering high quality projects throughout the UK. The company is active in all sectors of the commercial and residential property market and has recently worked on major schemes in Norfolk, Merseyside and Yorkshire.
- In order to help choose the winning designs for the three architectural competitions, VGD needs to receive comments on the entries by the time the exhibition closes at 5.00pm on Saturday 15th September. The developer will, however, continue to welcome views on the scheme as a whole on an ongoing basis.
- Vineyard Gate will be a contemporary shopping scheme that will be fully integrated with the town centre. It will include over 65 new retail outlets over four levels (including a major department store), a variety of places to eat and drink, a new bus station, parking and town centre homes. The proposals will provide a proper setting for the Town Wall and retain and incorporate a number of other historical structures that positively contribute to the fabric of the town. Furthermore, the development will create a new gateway to the town centre by improving links with southern parts of Colchester including the Garrison site.
- Following the public exhibition, VGD expects to submit a planning application to Colchester Borough Council at the end of 2007. After proper consideration by the Council's planning department, the developer hopes that planning permission will be granted during 2008. If planning consent is granted, preparatory works would then begin and the three-year construction programme would commence in 2010. This timing, however, is dependent on a number of factors that are outside VGD's control and might therefore be subject to change.
- The Vineyard Gate project team includes:

Developer:	Vineyard Gate Developments
Lead architects:	Stanley Bragg Partnership
Planning:	Drivers Jonas
Environmental:	Waterman Group
Conservation:	Feilden + Mawson
Archaeology:	RPS
Transport:	MLM
Accessibility:	Turner & Townsend
Service engineers:	Halloran Payne Associates
Quantity surveyor:	Tillyard
Agents:	CB Richard Ellis