

19th September 2007

NEARLY 1,800 VISIT VINEYARD GATE EXHIBITION

Over 1,780 residents attended the Vineyard Gate public exhibition in Colchester, which closed on Saturday. Hundreds more visited the Vineyard Gate website at www.vineyardgate.org

The exhibition, which ran from Saturday 1 to Saturday 15 September at the former Show World store on Queen Street, was an important part of a wide ranging public consultation process being undertaken by developer Vineyard Gate Developments Ltd (VGD).

Local residents and business people who attended the event gave feedback on the initial proposals and ideas for Vineyard Gate and met members of the VGD Development Team.

The exhibition also provided 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, which are expected to be announced later this month (September), will be integrated into the overall design of the scheme.

Although the exhibition has now closed, VGD continue to welcome comments about the scheme on an ongoing basis through a number of channels: 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.

This feedback will be taken into account as the scheme design is progressed towards a planning application and beyond.

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 are delighted that almost 1,800 local residents and businesses took the time to attend the exhibition over the past couple of weeks. The overall response to our initial proposals and the design competition entries has been positive, and we hope to announce the winners of these competitions in the next few weeks.

Even though the exhibition has now closed, we encourage everyone to continue sending us their feedback about the scheme in general. We will take account of all the comments received as we develop the proposals further before submitting a planning application".

ENDS

For more information, please contact:
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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.

- 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