

Ashfords LLP advises Wichelstowe joint venture partnership on planning agreement for 3000 home scheme

Submitted by: Ashfords LLP

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Law firm Ashfords LLP has advised on the planning agreement for the joint venture company set up to create around 3,000 new homes at Wichelstowe, south of Swindon.

The company is a 50:50 partnership between Swindon Borough Council and Barratt Developments plc, with the homes on the site provided through both the Barratt and David Wilson brands, and it is anticipated that the development will support more than 1000 jobs in the initial phases. The partnership will combine the strengths of both the public and private sectors to create a high-quality and attractive development.

Swindon Borough Council recently agreed the Section 106 planning agreement for the wider Middle and West Wichelstowe development, which will deliver the homes alongside supporting community infrastructure.

Alongside the completion of the Section 106 agreement, Swindon Borough Council has granted reserved matters approvals in relation to the initial phases, known as the Canalside, which will feature a mix of one, two, three and four bedroom homes. Work is expected to start in late spring.

In addition to the 3000 homes which will be developed over the next 20 years, key infrastructure included in the Section 106 agreement incorporates two primary schools; a secondary school; a variety of open space including playing pitches, allotments, areas of public open space and nature conservation; and a multi functional community facilities building.

Ashfords advised Wichelstowe on the terms of the Section 106 agreement. The Ashfords' team was led by David Richardson, Partner in Ashfords' Planning team, David specialises in planning, compulsory purchase and public law. Kate Topp, Partner in Ashfords' Real Estate team, continues to advise Wichelstowe on property matters concerning the future delivery of the development.

David Richardson commented: "We are delighted to have acted for Wichelstowe on this planning agreement which builds on our planning expertise in the housing sector and on working with innovative joint partnerships like Wichelstowe. I've no doubt the scheme will be a resounding success at a time when housing delivery is a significant issue both economically and politically."

Kate Topp added: "It's been very satisfying to be part of Wichelstowe's ambitious growth journey and to support such an iconic housing brand and their expansion in this location. We enjoyed working with the management team to achieve this successful conclusion which will enable them to implement their exciting growth strategy."

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