

Press Release

A Vision for 2020: Guildford Cathedral moves one step nearer to the creation of a Cathedral Quarter as part of its strategy to secure its future.

Following its announcement in September 2013, Guildford Cathedral is delighted to confirm that contracts have been exchanged with Linden Homes Guildford, to buy and develop a portion of the Stag Hill site. This is part of an ambitious strategy for investment and development, designed to secure the long term future of the Cathedral for the people of the town, the Diocese and the wider county.

For many years, Chapter, the governing body of the Cathedral, has been working towards devising a plan to secure the financial future of the Cathedral and to enable it to meet its obligations. It costs over £1m a year to operate the Cathedral which currently runs at a deficit. Funds from the sale of the land will create an endowment to secure its financial future.

The Dean, the Very Revd Dianna Gwilliams, said “The signing of contracts marks an important step for the Cathedral towards achieving our vision for 2020. The funds generated by the sale will be a vital piece of the jigsaw that will enable us to serve our community more effectively in the future. We are confident that Linden share our commitment to maintaining the Cathedral’s place as a key landmark in the region and are sensitive to the very special role it plays in the community. We look forward to working closely with them and others, as part of the consultation process, to ensure that the final scheme creates a Cathedral Quarter, that people will be proud of.”

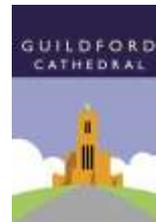
“Our belief is that in the fulfilment of our Vision for 2020 we will have a positive impact on Guildford as a whole. This release of land will enable the provision of much needed housing to the town centre area, whilst still retaining much of the open space that is enjoyed by so many visitors to the site. We are also looking for opportunities to increase the connectivity between the Cathedral and the local community and through investment, bring a new vibrancy to this part of the town”

Linden Homes, Guildford’s Managing Director, Peter Youll said “We are delighted to be working closely with the Cathedral on this prestigious development. We particularly look forward to engaging with local people and key stakeholders to provide a development that will sit in harmony with this magnificent Cathedral, on the slopes of Stag Hill”.

A series of workshops will be held in the next few months for key stakeholders, followed by a public exhibition.

Funds from the sale of the land will create an endowment to generate future income. Coupled with the ongoing “Make Your Mark Appeal”, which will enable essential repairs and improvements to be completed, the financial future of the Cathedral will be secured.

Embargoed until 10am, 24 April 2014



Notes to editors

About Linden Homes, Galliford Try's Housebuilding Division

Linden Homes is an award-winning housebuilder and the sixth largest residential developer in the UK, specialising in high quality, individually designed schemes across the country. Linden Homes is part of the Galliford Try Group, official supplier to The 2014 Ryder Cup.

The company was recently awarded the Large Housebuilder of the Year 2013 and Sustainable Housebuilder of the Year at the Housebuilder Awards. Linden Homes was also named Housebuilder of the Year at the Ideal Home Blue Ribbon Awards 2013.

Forecasting to sell over 3,000 homes annually, Linden Homes holds a landbank of over 13,000 plots, 80% of which are on brownfield sites. The company is also leading the way in sustainable construction with its flagship development, Graylingwell in Chichester, the UK's largest zero carbon scheme.

Linden Homes builds homes from Cornwall to Lincolnshire and from West Sussex to Northumberland. www.lindenhomes.co.uk.

Guildford Cathedral is the mother church of the Diocese of Guildford, covering 500 square miles of Surrey, north east Hampshire, the London Borough of Kingston and a part of West Sussex. With a seating capacity of 1000, the cathedral provides both focus and resource for the whole community as a place of pilgrimage, for stillness, prayer and daily choral worship, art, education and concerts. Grade 2 listed and consecrated by HM the Queen in 1961, it remains a landmark in the area and regularly plays host to civic events, schools visits, University graduation ceremonies and special services, welcoming 100,000 visitors a year.

The Cathedral faces very real financial challenges to cover its day to day running costs, hence the need for an endowment. The Cathedral has recently launched its "**Make Your Mark**" appeal to raise £1.3m by August 2014. This is largely for urgent repairs to the building, mainly to fund the removal of asbestos from the roof of the nave. The "Make Your Mark" appeal is required for these urgent repairs in addition to realising funds from the sale of the land. To find out how you can "Make Your Mark" and contribute to the Appeal please contact appeal@guildford-cathedral.org.

For further information about Guildford Cathedral and its Future Plans refer to our website www.guildford-cathedral.org or contact Louise Kenyon louise@guildford-cathedral.org
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