

## EWR Co & Bedford BC meeting, 23 February 2024

### EWR Co's follow-up note

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#### Actions

**[No 7] – Do people have to register to respond to the upcoming statutory consultation?**

No, people won't need to register to take part in our statutory consultation.

Once the statutory consultation process is complete and the DCO has been submitted and accepted by the Planning Inspectorate, there will be a 'pre-examination period' during which people will need to register as an 'interested party' to participate in the DCO examination. There may have been confusion amongst residents about this process, but to confirm anyone can freely respond to the consultation at any given time during the consultation period.

For reference, we've included a link to our DCO factsheet, which outlines the different stages of the DCO process – [here](#).

**[No 9] – Brief update on the houses purchased in Poets so far and next steps**

As advised, we've already acquired two properties in Poets and we aim to put them on the rental market in the summer. Before we can do so, we'll need to carry out some works to ensure they meet the applicable legal requirements to be rented out. We're currently sourcing quotes for the works on these two properties which – subject to the necessary approvals – will likely start in the spring.

Additionally, we expect to complete the purchase of a third property in April.

**[No 9] – Will further information on the Bedford Hospital's multi-story car park be provided at the first stage of the statutory consultation, including how it might be impacted (if at all) during construction?**

Yes, further details will be provided at the first stage of the statutory consultation later this year.

## **Poets' questions, answers**

- 1. Regarding the Bedford Town Representatives Group. I understand that the Protect Poets Campaign group has repeatedly asked for representation at the meetings either participating or as observers. Will you enable this? Alternatively if not, will EWR provide video recordings of meetings.**

The Terms of Reference of the Group state that members must be representatives of wards and electoral divisions within Bedford Town. To enable 'guests' or non-elected representatives to attend, there needs to be full agreement from members. This recent request from the PPG will be presented at the next Bedford Town LRG meeting for discussion. Regarding the recordings of the meetings, it's for group members to all agree for the meetings being recorded and shared.

- 2. There should be parity between the Bedford Town Group and the Bedfordshire Group so that meetings are held every six weeks.**

It's for the members of each LRG to agree on their meeting cycle. The Bedfordshire LRG are holding their meetings every six weeks because their members agreed so. All other LRGs are running at a 12-week cycle.

- 3. The group requests that those putting forward questions for the agenda are given the right to speak.**

The request will be noted and raised with the members of the LRG at their next meeting.

- 4. How many homes has EWR purchased below an open market offer?**

None. So far, we've acquired two homes at the unblighted market value and we expect to acquire a third one in April. Under the NTS Scheme, offers are made following independent valuations completed by RICS Registered Valuers who are instructed to discount any impact of the Project from their valuations. The valuations are then shared with the homeowners and any follow up questions they may have addressed.

You can find more information on how we make an offer to buy properties under the NTS Property Scheme – [here](#).