



## **PRESS RELEASE**

**16 SEPTEMBER 2006**

### **REFRESHED MASTERPLAN UNVEILED**

A plan that will help transform Knutton and Cross Heath into a thriving and popular neighbourhood has been unveiled to residents.

RENEW North Staffordshire and its partners explained the plan to the local community at an information day on Saturday, September 16,

The proposals in the refreshed masterplan for Knutton and Cross Heath will transform the neighbourhood for the better by building hundreds of new homes, renovating older homes and clearing properties in unpopular neighbourhoods. The masterplan also proposes new community facilities, environmental improvements and development of a “sports village.”

Residents were shown proposals for delivery in 2006-08 at the information day, together with outline proposals for 2008 onwards.

The draft masterplan for Knutton and Cross Heath was developed together with residents during 2004-05. Seventy per cent of residents supported the proposals at open days in May 2005.

Since then RENEW North Staffordshire and its partners have reviewed the draft masterplan. This was part of a standard process to ensure that plans in the areas of major intervention are deliverable and offer value for money.

Hardial Bhogal, director of RENEW North Staffordshire, said: “The refreshed masterplan offers a number of targeted changes, while still achieving the overall aim of transforming the neighbourhood into a place that is thriving and popular in the future.

“The new housing will create a highly visible and high quality new development at the centre of the neighbourhood.

“The first phase of clearance will take place on the Lower Milehouse estate – as discussed with the community during the masterplanning process last year.

“RENEW North Staffordshire and its partners will also be investing in older terraced homes in Knutton Village.”

### **Ends**

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### **Notes to editors**

1. RENEW North Staffordshire is the housing market renewal pathfinder for Stoke-on-Trent, Newcastle-under-Lyme and Biddulph East. Our aim is to help make North Staffordshire a thriving, diverse conurbation where people want to live, work, invest and study. We do this by working with communities and partners to:
  - balance housing supply and demand
  - retain and attract population
  - provide quality housing that meets the aspirations of existing and new residents
  - transform the environment and make the best of our heritage and green space
  - support economic regeneration.
2. The RENEW North Staffordshire team can be contacted by the public on 01782 232024 or [renew@civic1.stoke.gov.uk](mailto:renew@civic1.stoke.gov.uk). Further information can be found on the website: [www.renewnorthstaffs.gov.uk](http://www.renewnorthstaffs.gov.uk).