



## **PRESS RELEASE**

**9 May 2007**

### **RESIDENTS INVITED TO OPEN DAYS**

Residents are being invited to find out about the key regeneration issues in their neighbourhoods.

People from Shelton, Northwood, City Waterside, the Wellington Street area of Hanley, Birches Head and Stoke town are being invited to open days on Saturday, May 12.

The events will be held between 10am and 3pm at Wellington Street Area Community Hall, Dresden Street, Hanley, and in the reception area at the Civic Centre in Stoke.

People's views on their local issues will help influence the funding bid to be made by RENEW North Staffordshire to the Government later this year.

Research has been carried out by RENEW North Staffordshire to inform an "area regeneration framework" for these priority neighbourhoods.

Information will be available on issues including:

- housing conditions
- appearance of the area
- crime and anti-social behaviour.

RENEW North Staffordshire wants to hear from local people what they think about the information and whether there are any other key problems that need to be tackled.

The information will then be used in evidence when RENEW North Staffordshire bids to the Government for further funding. It will also be used by Stoke-on-Trent City Council to help draw up its planning policies.

Hardial Bhogal, director of RENEW North Staffordshire, said: "This information is important in helping us to understand the problems and issues these neighbourhoods have.

"We want to know what local people think about that, whether they agree or whether there are other issues they want to raise."

Mark Meredith, elected mayor of Stoke-on-Trent, said: "We need good, up to date information if we are to encourage the Government to continue investing in Stoke-on-Trent. I urge people who live in this area to come along to the open days so they know more about the issues in their neighbourhoods and so they can have their say."

**Ends**

**You are invited to send a reporter / photographer to the events.**

For further information contact or Michael Howard at Staniforth on 0161 919 8034, [Michael.howard@staniforth.co.uk](mailto:Michael.howard@staniforth.co.uk), or Linda Isted at Staniforth on 0161 919 8030, [Linda.isted@staniforth.co.uk](mailto:Linda.isted@staniforth.co.uk).

#### **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).