



## **PRESS RELEASE**

**November 28, 2007**

### **RESIDENTS URGED TO HELP SHAPE THE FUTURE OF MEIR**

Residents of Meir are being asked for their views this weekend and next week on plans that aim to make the area a better place to live.

Local people are invited to a consultation event on Sunday, December 2, where they can get involved in planning improvements for the neighbourhood.

As well as being asked to comment on a range of options that are being put forward to redevelop the area, residents will also be able to see the results of research that has taken place in Meir over the past few months, and view the refreshed masterplan for the area.

A masterplan to turn Meir into a thriving, attractive and popular place to live was supported by more than 80 per cent of residents in 2005. Since then, RENEW has been working with partners to develop and refine the masterplan.

Now, RENEW North Staffordshire and partners David Wilson Homes, Great Places Housing Association and Stoke-on-Trent City Council, are moving towards the next phase of improvements to Meir.

The partners are hosting the consultation event, to be held at the Crescent Primary School in Pinewood Crescent.

Staff will be on hand from 10am until 2pm to answer questions and talk through the latest development options. Residents will be asked to fill in a questionnaire, and the information gathered will be used to develop the masterplan going forward.

Hardial Bhogal, director of RENEW North Staffordshire, said: “We have a fantastic opportunity to improve the future for everyone who lives in Meir.

“Building on the strong support residents have already shown for major change in the area, we now want to hear their views on the latest improvement plans.

“There are a number of options we’d like residents to consider, which range from simply refurbishing current properties, to more comprehensive changes that will eventually transform the neighbourhood.

“Their views - their likes and dislikes - will then be reflected in the improvements that we take forward.”

Councillor Mervin Smith, regeneration portfolio holder for Stoke-on-Trent City Council, said: “Feedback from people who actually live in the area is vital if we are to make Meir a better place for everyone.

“I would urge everyone who lives there to go along to the consultation event on Sunday, to find out more and get involved in shaping the future of Meir.”

Helen O’Doherty, of David Wilson Homes, said: “We are committed to working with local partners to deliver improvements for the Meir community, and we welcome residents’ views on how best we can do this.”

Anyone who cannot make the event on Sunday can catch up with the plans at a series of local events taking place next week at:

- The Crescent Children's Centre café area, 9am-5pm, on Monday, December 3
- Stansmore Road and Weston Road shopping areas, 12noon-2pm, Tuesday, December 4
- Macdonald Crescent, 10am-12noon, Wednesday, December 5
- Henderson Grove, 1.30pm-3.30pm, Wednesday, December 5
- Brookwood Drive, 12noon-2pm, Thursday, December 6
- Crescent Primary School, from 3.30pm, Thursday, December 6
- Meir Christmas Ward Event, Pickford Place, 4pm, Friday, December 7.

### **Ends**

For further information please contact:

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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).