

**Statement from Martin Redman, director of Langham Homes, regarding the Oaklands Public Engagement on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2011**

“The public engagement was well attended, with over 170 visitors over the two days. During the engagement, we held a number of ‘question and answer’ sessions and I’d like to thank all who participated as we already have many new thoughts and ideas, as a result of the questions and queries raised.

“Local residents now understand it is no longer viable for SABP to retain the land at Oaklands and so it is being sold as part of its plans to modernise its services and facilities. Many of the old buildings on site have remained vacant for many years and some of the services have already transferred to other locations. Oaklands House, which was originally designed as staff accommodation is now used as office space and staff currently based here will be relocated to the Trust’s headquarters in Leatherhead or other Trust sites in local areas.

“Langham is proposing a new residential social care facility for people with learning disabilities within part of the development, which will improve facilities for current residents in addition to retaining two existing buildings: Woodview (The Blue Peter bungalow) and Coulsdon Lodge, both social care homes, which have already been transferred to independent providers.

“We have been able to hear local residents’ concerns in respect to the potential effect on local schools and healthcare facilities. Although, through Section 106 contributions, we will be giving a contribution to Surrey County Council (SCC) in order to fund any new facilities needed. It is SCC’s responsibility to decide where the money is spent. We intend to work with local Councillors and School Governors so we can ensure these funds are allocated locally and where needed. Similarly, healthcare contributions will be provided and available if required, although our initial research has indicated current availability to all local GP lists. Nevertheless, funds will be available.

“Other concerns raised were on density. We advised residents that we would be proposing lower densities than the neighbouring sites, reflecting the transition to the greenbelt. In our initial design we wanted to ensure all and mature tree boundaries will remain, leaving the frontages unchanged and the important clusters of trees on the site are to remain and be designed around and linked together with additional planting and avenues of trees, leading to a natural play trail, which can be enjoyed by the wider community, linking into open countryside beyond.

“If anyone didn’t get the chance to get to the engagement, they can contact Emma Stevens on 01483 561119 or email [emma@housegroup.co.uk](mailto:emma@housegroup.co.uk) for a copy of the engagement details and feedback form. We have received lots of great feedback already, but there’s still time to give us any comments you may have. The closing date for feedback to reach us is Monday 7<sup>th</sup> February.”