

## **NEWS RELEASE**

### **RAF UPWOOD APPLICATION PROPOSALS SUBMITTED**

Following a series of public consultation events regarding the regeneration of the former RAF Upwood base, Strawsons Property submitted a planning application to Huntingdonshire District Council in April 2009. An appeal for non determination of the application was subsequently submitted and the Planning Inspector is due to make a decision on the application before the end of 2010.

Strawsons, a regeneration and agricultural company, is committed to delivering an exemplar sustainable mixed-use scheme on the 55 hectare brownfield site. This will incorporate a range of new homes, community facilities and employment, carefully integrated with the existing communities of Ramsey, Bury and Upwood.

The scheme will deliver Cambridgeshire's first large-scale low carbon development, achieving Code for Sustainable Homes Level 5 and BREEAM Excellent on the commercial buildings. It will use a centralised energy centre fuelled by locally grown willow for hot water and heating and will incorporate sustainable drainage, renewable energy and reuse former RAF buildings and materials.

Adrian Sail from Strawsons Property explained: "The key aim is to comprehensively redevelop the site to sustain and improve the vitality and viability of Ramsey, Bury and Upwood by bringing new life and spending power to the area.

"The scheme will bring a significant brownfield site back into use, help to achieve housing and employment targets for the region and also reduce the need to develop on Greenfield sites.

"RAF Upwood would also been an exemplar eco-friendly scheme. The quantum of development proposed for the site would enable the delivery of the first major low-carbon scheme in Cambridgeshire."

The application includes:

- 650 well designed quality sustainable homes, including family, first time buyer, affordable and retirement housing

- New employment opportunities including speculatively developed workspace and offices for small to medium sized enterprises
- A neighbourhood centre including community leisure facilities, convenience shops, meeting rooms, interpretation and community police space
- £4.8m investment into a new half hourly bus service to Peterborough and Huntingdon, including new covered bus stops and travel vouchers
- Comprehensive travel strategy including speed reduction schemes, new signalised junctions to tackle congestion at key pinch points, including Burton Garage in Bury and new safe foot and cycleways
- New safe pedestrian and cycle routes linking the site to Bury and Upwood
- Restoration of the former Guard House and Upwood Hill House
- Enhanced woodland and natural habitats
- Biomass boiler and use of adjacent agricultural land to supply biomass
- A school nature conservation area
- Development-led investment into Upwood Primary School and local primary healthcare facilities for improvements and expansion.

In the region of 400 local people have attended the exhibitions and many residents have also submitted their thoughts online. These views have helped to shape the overall masterplan for the site.

Changes that have been made to the proposals in response to consultation include comments at the first round of public consultation events include the relocation of employment space, replacement of wind turbine with alternative renewable energy technologies. The plans have also incorporated the provision of a new sewage treatment works and infrastructure to alleviate current issues in the area and provision of a neighbourhood centre including local shops, a community police office, meeting rooms and an exhibition relating to the past military use of the site.

Adrian added: "We would like to thank the local community for their valuable feedback which has helped us to ensure that their views and aspirations for the site are reflected in the final planning application."

The planning application can be accessed through Huntingdonshire District Council's planning department and a summary is also available to view on:

[www.rafupwoodregeneration.co.uk](http://www.rafupwoodregeneration.co.uk)

Please email [rafupwood@beattiegroup.com](mailto:rafupwood@beattiegroup.com) or call 0113 213 0300 for further information.

**ENDS**

**For further media information contact:**

Victoria Walker or Emilie Whelan, Beattie Communications: 0113 213 0300.

**Note to Editors**

Strawsons Property is a family run business which has been established for almost 20 years.

Strawsons focuses on investment and development to deliver exemplar regeneration schemes around the country. Its team specializes in delivering offices, industrial and residential schemes and also has farming and agricultural interests in the Midlands and North of England.

For more information visit [www.strawsonsproperty.com](http://www.strawsonsproperty.com)