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LOCAL WORKSHOPS BEGIN ON PROPOSED BUCKOVER GARDEN VILLAGE IN SOUTH GLOUCESTERSHIRE

The Tortworth Estate, and its development partner, St. Modwen, will begin a series of targeted workshops next month (April 2018) to directly engage the local community in the planning process for the proposed garden village at Buckover. This follows on from the formal identification of Buckover, as a strategic development location, in the recent draft West of England Joint Spatial Plan.

The workshops will be by invitation only and focus on specific local audiences to ensure that individual stakeholders, local residents, adjoining land owners, businesses and service providers each have the opportunity to input their views. They will commence in April 2018 and run until the summer with the results of each workshop used to shape and inform the Master Planning of the Garden Village. Full reports from each session will be made available to the public as well as further opportunities for the wider local audience to contribute via a Public Exhibition prior to the final outline planning application submission.

Robert Moreton of the Tortworth Estate said: “The Estate has spent the last 18 months exploring opportunities, listening to local people and organisations and undertaking a wide range of technical work. We now believe that the time is right to begin a series of local workshops to ensure that Buckover Garden Village is consciously planned, in collaboration with the widest range of local people as possible, all working towards the common goal of providing a truly sustainable 21st century community.”

Rupert Joseland of St. Modwen added: “Our priority over coming months will be a prolonged period of engaging with as many local people and stakeholders as possible to help us formulate how and what Buckover Garden Village should look like in order to create a place where people will genuinely want to live, work and relax for generations to come.”

The first workshop takes place on 17 April 2018 and is targeted specifically at representatives

from local clubs, organisations and service providers. The workshop will begin with a short presentation of the principles of a garden village and the vision for Buckover. Break-out sessions will examine and explore both the development challenges and opportunities before a final plenary session to capture key outputs that will go forward to help shape and inform the overall Master Planning exercise. Representatives and officers from South Gloucestershire Council will be in attendance. This will allow them the opportunity to gain further feedback on their Local Plan policies as well as to update on outcomes from their own Local Plan consultation last October. They will be joined by land owner, The Tortworth Estate and development partner, St. Modwen.

Ends

For further information, please contact:

Emma Salo/Megan Evans

Equinox Communications

T: 02920 764 100

E: stmodwen@equinoxcommunications.co.uk

Kathryn Edwards/Emily Boswell

St. Modwen Properties PLC

T: 0121 222 9400

E: Corpcomms@stmodwen.co.uk

Notes to editors:

Garden Village principles and plans for Buckover: Over the past decade, there has been a resurgence, within Town Planning and Development sectors, around the creation of new places based on the guiding principles of Garden Settlements as a sustainable solution to the housing crisis in Britain. These guiding principles aim to combine the best of town and country lifestyles to create healthy, vibrant and sustainable communities and a positive legacy for future generations. The vision for Buckover is to create a 21st century Garden Village that makes intelligent use of non-greenbelt land inside the private, family-owned Tortworth Estate which spans the Civil Parishes of Falfield and Thornbury. It aims to create a thriving community in Buckover which will deliver a wide range of modern, innovative housing to support the social and economic needs of the area. The Garden Village will be guided by a design philosophy that focuses on the natural environment (green open spaces, wildlife-friendly landscaping and wetland corridors) and on health and wellbeing (considered housing design, segregated cycle paths and walkways, recreational and leisure facilities and locally grown food). Buckover Garden Village will have a community heart supported by a new high street with a range of places to shop, eat and drink and local services to support the day to day needs of the community. It will also deliver new employment opportunities to provide the catalyst for further economic growth and inward investment in the area with upgraded health and transport infrastructure

to ensure that the site is fully sustainable. The aim is to complement and not compete with existing local communities. The proposed Buckover Garden Village has been formally identified in the new West of England Joint Spatial Plan which will undergo an Examination in Public (EiP) during 2018.

The development partnership: The Tortworth Estate is a privately owned rural estate located in South Gloucestershire. It has been owned by the Moreton family since the 1620s and comprises approximately 4,500 acres of mainly agricultural land. Tortworth Estate's core values align with the Garden Settlement guiding principles and there is a genuine ethos and motivation within the Moreton family to deliver a lasting positive legacy for the local community that everyone can be proud of. For more information visit tortworthestate.com/gardenvillage. Under the stewardship of Robert Moreton, The Tortworth Estate Company is promoting its Buckover Garden Village concept through the West of England Joint Spatial Plan. In July 2017, St. Modwen was selected as delivery partner for the concept. For 30 years, St. Modwen has been creating sustainable new communities and breathing life into places to create new and better opportunities. Wherever possible, St. Modwen uses local suppliers and contractors to help it transform and improve open spaces and turn them into places that benefit the people who live and work there. For more information visit stmodwen.co.uk