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PRESS RELEASE

February 2009

Final Scheme for Redevelopment of Fine Décor Site at Holmes Chapel Approved by Planners

Project: Fine Décor
Client: Castletown Investments Ltd
Location: Holmes Chapel

After 4 years work Manchester based HOW Planning has secured outline planning consent for a major new residential scheme in Holmes Chapel, the first significant housing development to be granted permission in Congleton Borough since the 2003 moratorium on planning permissions.

Acting on behalf of landowner Castletown Investments Ltd, HOW Planning carried out a successful public consultation in December 2007, which indicated strong support for the regeneration of the site for housing. Following this an outline planning application for the 4.2 hectare (10.4 acre) residential development was put forward.

Included in the scheme are plans for 160 new houses, focussing on traditional family homes together with some apartments, and new public open space incorporating a children's play area.

A key aim of the redevelopment plans is to support wallcovering manufacturer Fine Décor, the existing tenant at Victoria Mills, to relocate to new premises within the Borough. Fine Décor currently employs some 160 staff and the company needs modern accommodation which will deliver manufacturing efficiencies, increase its competitiveness and help support future expansion opportunities.

Says Gary Halman, Partner at HOW Planning: "The plans for the land will transform what is currently an outdated and pretty unattractive industrial site into an exciting, high quality residential development, and will provide Holmes Chapel with good quality family housing, as well as affordable homes together with new open space including a children's play area. Feedback from the public consultation was extremely positive and we believe residents in this area are looking forward to seeing the new development take place."



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Anthony Garnett, Managing Director at Fine Décor said: “Although the business environment is very tough right now, this decision enables the Company and its employees to look to the future with a fair degree of optimism. Having been hamstrung on the current site for 4 years pending a potential move, the business has become increasingly unsustainable given the dilapidated state of the buildings and environmental pressures we are currently operating under. We will be working closely with the Council and South East Cheshire Enterprise who have both offered their full support in facilitating the factory relocation.”