

Consultation to run during summer holidays

## PLAN FOR 100 NEW HOMES ON WALDEN SCHOOL SITE

**CHASE NEW Homes last week brought months of speculation to an end with their application to Uttlesford District Council to build a total of 100 flats and houses on the old Walden / Friends' School site in Saffron Walden.**

The plan is for 70 homes less than the number originally discussed in November last year.

The first phase proposed is for the development of 30 dwellings utilising existing access, re-provision of the swimming pool with new changing rooms, artificial grass pitches, a sports pavilion, a multi-use games area and two other play areas, associated parking and the demolition of the gym building.

The remainder is in outline for up to 70 dwellings with associated infrastructure, public open space, a forest school and a perimeter path.

### LOW DENSITY

Said a spokesman for Chase New Homes: "After collating responses from residents it became clear that there is a preference for a low density development. At only 14 dwellings per hectare the scheme is significantly below the Council's emerging policies for housing densities but we believe what we are proposing will ensure a spacious layout with genuine community facilities and an appropriate relationship with surrounding properties.

"The proposal is a significant reduction on the numbers shown in our previous layout which came about in response to comments received.

"We are proposing high quality, traditional designs that will blend harmoniously into their surroundings and also protect and enhance the setting of the original main school building. We are also maintaining all trees on the boundaries and enhancing with additional planting to ensure that there is natural screening for neighbouring properties.

### BALANCED

"The design of properties is traditional in nature with a mix of sizes to ensure that we achieve a balanced community. Affordable housing will also form a significant part of the development to allow local people to get on the housing ladder. We look forward to working with the community to deliver new homes in Saffron Walden."

R4U's Cllr Paul Gadd at Saffron Walden Town Council said: "In November last year, in response to widespread public concerns, the Town Council made its position clear in relation to Chase New Homes' proposal to build on the former Friends' School site.

"Development of new homes there is against both national and local planning policy and therefore should be rejected. The playing fields and other open spaces, as well as the sports hall and swimming pool, are specifically protected unless replacement facilities are provided that are at least as good in terms of location, quality and quantity.

### UNCHANGED

"The Chase planning application shows no intention of complying with these requirements so the Town Council's position is unchanged. "Saffron Walden has a desperate shortage of both sports facilities and other public open space and it is therefore important that these are protected.

"It is disappointing that the public consultation for this planning application is during the summer holidays when many people are away. We urge residents to send in their comments to UDC by the end of August. They can do so following the Planning link on the UDC website and searching for application UTT/19/1744/OP."

● The consultation for this application will run until September 4.