PRESS RELEASE

29th November 2022

The Consortium of Barratt David Wilson and Vistry Group would like to offer its sincere apologies to the Bridport community, including the Symondsbury Estate, following a communication failure that led to the removal of an extended area of hedgerow along West Road, as part of enabling works associated with the development of Foundry Lea.

The Consortium would like to make it clear work was not carried out with the approval or knowledge of the landowner Sir Philip Colfox and have apologised directly to Sir Philip for the mistake.

We have carried out a full investigation and will take steps to ensure this doesn't happen again. An immediate reinstatement programme has started and the detail will be sent to Sir Philip for his approval and implemented without delay. In addition, the local authority and town council have been alerted and will be kept up to date with all reinstatement works.

The Consortium are committed to the project and doing the right thing both in terms of the delivery of new homes and mitigating the impact on the local ecology. As well as full reinstatement, the Consortium will be working with local stakeholders, and Sir Philip, to offer additional ecological enhancement within the local community.

A spokesperson on behalf of the joint Barratt and Vistry Consortium at Foundry Lea, said: “We are sorry for the unplanned removal of some of the hedging at our Foundry Lea development due to a breakdown in communications between the consortium, its environmental consultant, and the groundworks team.

“We will replace the removed elements as quickly as possible and aim to have this completed over the dormant season. To repair the damage we will be working with our consultants to ensure additional ecological and arboricultural enhancements are delivered within the scheme and we will dedicate the site to becoming a ‘Hedgehog Development’ with a network of hedgehog highways across Foundry Lea including within the showhome gardens.

“In time for Christmas we will also seek to work with the local school to provide a number of hedgehog homes as part of a ‘Give a Hedgehog a Homes for Xmas’ craft and design competition.

“Both consortium partners take nature conservation extremely seriously and we will make changes to ensure this issue does not happen again.”

Sir Philip Colfox commented, “I am deeply saddened by what has happened but most grateful to Barratt David Wilson and Vistry for so quickly admitting the blunder and offering their fulsome apologies and promise to put everything right. I have always been concerned by the potential

damage done to wildlife, nature, the trees and also to the screening of the land and the setting of the entrance to Bridport so I will be asking the developers to make full and proper reparations in a comprehensive way and we trust out of this we will see a lasting improvement to the wildlife in this part of the Symondsbury Parish."