

Calls to look at traffic as M1 homes plans debated

COUNCIL

Janine Griffiths

yep.newsdesk@ypn.co.uk
@LeedsNews

PLANNERS HAVE been asked to consider ways to reduce the impact of traffic as part of proposals to create up to 1,800 new homes next to a Leeds stretch of the M1.

Templegate Developments Ltd are behind the proposed scheme, which would also include a "new concept motorway

service area" and local facilities on a land known as Skelton Gate.

The site sits to the southern side of junction 45 of the M1. As well as homes, the development would include a food store, local centre and at least one primary school.

Members of Leeds City Council's plans panel welcomed the proposals but raised concerns about sustainability and transport to and from the residential site.

Councillor David Black-

burn (Green Party, Farnley and Wortley) said: "It looks like you have got the right idea but it all comes down to sustainability and whether you can travel from the site without depending on your own transport.

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Coun Stuart McKenna (Lab, Garforth and Swillington) added: "I see a lot of potential with this development.

"However, flooding is a real issue in the area and over the years it has caused a lot of problems. Pontefract Lane was flooded years ago. In principle, it would be nice to have a little village there but I'd like to see more on flooding and the high-ways."

The YEP revealed earlier it is

thought that 1,100 houses would be earmarked initially. But this could increase by a further 700 on Green Belt land at a later date, pending the outcome of Leeds City Council's Site Allocations Plan, which is awaiting submission to the Secretary of State and examination by an inspector. The panel's comments will be fed back to the developer ahead of the submission of a full planning application.

EMAIL: What do you think to the initial proposals for the site?

IN BRIEF

MONUMENT TO STATION'S PAST

OSSETT: The former owner of the land where the new Ossett fire station is being built has donated a sculpture reflecting the area's mining heritage.

Kevin Fryers presented the artwork, which replicates a larger version on a nearby roundabout, to deputy chief fire officer Steve Beckley, at the Silkwood Business Park site.

PRESCRIPTION CALL BY GPS

CITY: Patients are being reminded to order and collect repeat prescriptions before Christmas. NHS Leeds West Clinical Commissioning Group is urging people with long-term conditions to plan ahead before the break. West Leeds practices now offer online ordering of repeat prescriptions. Visit leedswestccg.nhs.uk.

At 'the heart of Leeds' for 300 years

ONE OF Leeds' oldest pubs has celebrated 300 years of pulling pints.

Customers and staff at Whitelock's, off Briggate, celebrated the milestone for the pub which is described as being "the heart of Leeds".

In 1867 the licence of the Turk's Head was granted to John Lupton Whitelock.

Customers have included poet laureate Sir John Betjeman, who described the pub as "the heart of Leeds", and writer Charles Dickens.

Yorkshire Evening Post pub writer Simon Jenkins said: "It is an absolute Leeds institution and a true survivor from a bygone age."

CHEERS: Whitelock's has celebrated 300 years.



CHARITY

Rhinos charity is a winner thanks to support from staff at M&S

THE LEEDS Rhinos Foundation has bagged a healthy serving of extra support thanks to Marks & Spencer.

Staff at the retail giant's new Foodhall store in Kirkstall have picked the foundation as their charity of the year, it has been announced.

They will now support its work with a 12-month fundraising campaign that will include events such as sponsored walks and cake bakes.

Store manager Phil Edwards said: "Each year, M&S stores across the country make a commitment to working with local

causes for the good of the immediate community. With our new store just opened, it is important for us to choose a local cause that means something to the employees and people in the area.

"Leeds Rhinos Foundation is a really worthy cause as it works

at the heart of the community, making a difference through sport, health and education and it is right on our doorstep.

"For that reason they were an obvious choice for our support this year. We look forward to working with Leeds Rhinos Foundation for many months

to come, and hope that our customers will get behind the fundraising activities that we have lined up throughout the year."

Foundation fundraising and events officer Jessica Bowman said she and her colleagues were "delighted" to get the store's backing.

HAVE YOUR SAY ON BUDGET

LEEDS: People are invited to submit their opinions on the city council's proposed budget before it is formally finalised in February next year. Cuts of up to £14m are expected in the budget, and 259 staff jobs will be made redundant. Take part in the online survey at <http://www.leeds.gov.uk/council/Pages/our-financial-plans.aspx>.



WHERE TO EAT

BUNDOBUST: After opening on Mill Hill last year, Bundobust has already gained a loyal following. Check out the 'Combo for Two', priced at £12.50, which comes complete with bundo chaat, onion gobi bhaji bhaji, paneer and mushroom tikka, tarka dhal and massala dosa.

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