

Case Study: Community consultation at Nash Mills, Hemel Hempstead

The former Nash Mills Paper Mill site provides a unique opportunity to create an exciting new community alongside the Grand Union Canal. This site dates back to pre-Norman times and represents the last remaining paper mill in the region and is rightly held to be a locally very important site, steeped in history.

There was originally a corn-mill recorded in the Domesday Book which was converted to papermaking at the end of the 18th century. The mill at Nash Mills continued to make paper until its closure in 2006.

This site has for centuries been the 'heart' of the community providing much needed employment. Now the industrial structures have fallen into disrepair and stand derelict, a sad eyesore and legacy that dominates the locality.

Understanding peoples concerns

Crest Nicholson and our development partners Linden Homes ensured we really understood the needs and concerns of the local community and other stakeholders in preparing the site regeneration plans.

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In addition to numerous meetings with the Local Planning Authority and other statutory consultees, two public meetings and workshops were convened with the Parish Council, residents and local active bodies – such as The Paper Trail Society.

We gained a vital understanding of how the community perceived the importance and impact of the project. With this ongoing dialogue the scheme proposals emerged and responded to the points and issues made by the community. The proposals were presented to the community and essential feedback flowed.

Of particular concern was the retention of two of the oldest buildings on the site – Nash House and Stephenson's Cottage. In response these two buildings will be retained to provide on-site office space for residents and a much-needed crèche. The opening up of the canalside and waterways will allow access for the public to use and enjoy these features – previously denied by the former industrial operations.



The proposed regeneration of the former Nash Mills site will deliver a mixed-use sustainable development, providing much-needed new homes, places for work and a care home, while retaining the site's oldest buildings that are of particular interest locally.