PRESS RELEASE

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Plans submitted for new retail park in St Neots

Aldi have signed an agreement to lease with property development company, Quora Ltd, to anchor their proposed new retail park in St Neots.

Quora Ltd has submitted plans to Huntingdonshire District Council to build a retail and employment park on part of the Howard Road Industrial Estate in Eaton Socon, St Neots.

In addition to Aldi, Pets at Home and B&M Bargains have signed up to the proposals to rejuvenate the site – which has been empty for five years - with modern buildings and a landscape scheme.

In addition to the retail park, the developers plan to build four employment units aimed at local businesses. They want to provide small or start-up businesses with the opportunity to have a base in modern, energy efficient premises.

A decision should be made in January, with work scheduled to start later in the year if permission is granted. The submission of the plans follows consultation with the community.

Ben Ellis, director of Quora, said: "It is important for us to know what the local people think about our proposals before we submit for planning. We were overwhelmed by how many people attended our consultation event, held in St Mary's Church back in July.

"The plans were incredibly well received, with 95 per cent of respondents supporting the proposals. We had a number of positive comments, with the mix of retailers being welcomed. The local community are clearly behind us, and we hope that the application will be well received by the district planners."

Roger Harrison, Eaton Socon district councillor, said: "I am absolutely all for it – the employment opportunities are great and I think it will help take some of the traffic off the A428. The employment is the best thing – 200-plus jobs is absolutely fantastic."

MP Real Estate acted for Aldi.

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