



**Corks Lane
Hadleigh
Ipswich IP7 6SJ**

**MEDIA RELEASE
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POPLAR ROAD REGENERATION PLANS GO PUBLIC!

Babergh District Council is holding an exhibition on 13th (4pm to 7pm) and 14th August (10am to 4pm) at the Community Drop In Centre, Poplar Road, Gt Cornard, so that local residents and users of the shops will be able to comment on the plans for the area's proposed development.

The Poplar Road shopping area was developed in 1971 as a local shopping centre, for the newly constructed Anglia Estate. Over the years the shopping area has fallen into disrepair. The dumping of rubbish is often a problem and there is a general and growing reluctance of the local community to shop at the site.

The Poplar Road Regeneration Group was set up in February 2002 to look at ways that the shopping area could be successfully regenerated. The group is made up of councillors representing the County, District and Parish, local shopkeepers, police, schools, tenant groups and officers of the District Council.

The group identified that the best way to regenerate the area is to demolish the existing buildings and redevelop the whole site. By redeveloping the site it is hoped to provide new shops designed specifically for the current shop tenants, more secure loading and parking areas, a substantial number of dwellings of varying types and tenures, a community resource and possibly some office accommodation for small businesses. The group is keen that any development of the area is phased so that there will be as little disruption as possible to the existing businesses.

In May 2003 Suffolk Heritage Housing Association were appointed to work with the Regeneration Group and Babergh on any potential regeneration of the site.

Helen Shackleton, Babergh's Tenant Services Officer, said: "following on from this consultation and before any regeneration scheme can start, planning permission must be obtained, funding needs to be secured and the proposals adopted as part of the Council's Housing Strategy. So there is still a great of work to do, but we wanted to get the views of local people at the earliest possible opportunity." ENDS

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