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NEWS RELEASE

Sime Darby announces plans for Sainsbury's to return to Bognor Regis after an absence of nearly 20 years.

Another important step along the road to redeveloping the former Lec Site on Shripney Road has been taken this week.

Sime Darby London Limited first became involved in this site in 1994 when they purchased Lec Refrigeration plc. Since the closure of the Bognor Regis plant in 2004, it has been the intention of Sime Darby to implement a properly planned and viable after-use for this brownfield site, which reflects both the needs and aspirations of the local community and the regeneration objectives set for Bognor Regis.

Sime Darby London has teamed up with Sainsbury's to deliver a high quality mixed use scheme on the former Lec site which will make a significant contribution to the overall regeneration of the town.

A Development Brief for the Lec site was agreed by Arun District Councillors in July following comprehensive public consultation by Sime Darby London Ltd. One of the suggested uses for the site was food retail and a deal has subsequently been agreed with Sainsbury's to bring this forward.

Sime Darby's Director, Nik Raof Daud commented, "We are pleased that Sainsbury's are working with us on these proposals. An important first step in the Development Brief was to secure a substantial user that would not only fit into the "Core" land uses but also act as an "anchor" for the development of the rest of the site. We have agreed to work together on the redevelopment proposals for the site, which will meet the aspirations of the Development Brief. "

Max Whitehand, Regional Development Executive at Sainsbury's, added: "We are excited about returning to Bognor Regis and are committed to contributing towards the ongoing regeneration of the area. As well as providing improved choice and quality for Bognor Regis

shoppers, the new store will generate up to 400 full and part time jobs for the local community.”

Richard McMann, Bognor Regis Regeneration Task Force Co-ordinator, said: “I am delighted to see that the next steps in the regeneration of the Lec site are coming forward. Interest and potential investment from such quality businesses is great news for the town.”

The proposals would provide a 55,000 sq ft Sainsbury’s store and around 600 car parking spaces on part of the site. In addition, there would be a mix of employment uses, on land that will be retained by Sime Darby.

The new Sainsbury’s store would be of a high quality design to create a gateway feature on this key route into the town. An improved access into the development would be provided directly from the A29.

Prior to the submission of a planning application for the former Lec site, the proposals will be displayed at a public drop in session in the Taylor Room at the Regis Centre, Belmont Street, Bognor Regis, where the local community can view the plans and make comments. Representatives from Sime Darby and Sainsbury’s will also be on hand to answer any questions. The drop in sessions will be held at the following dates and times:

- Thursday 20 November
- Friday 21 November
- Saturday 22 November

Details are also available via Sime Darby’s website www.simedarby.co.uk.

For further information, please call Sainsbury’s community information line on 0845 602 1151.

Ends

Notes to editors

- The Lec site on Shripney Road, Bognor was the former manufacturing plant of Lec Refrigeration plc but has been vacant since 2004. The landowners, Sime Darby London, are looking to regenerate the site with a variety of uses including retail.