

12 May 2010

Media Release

Peterborough Garden Park gets set for Royal Visit

PETERBOROUGH Garden Park is preparing to welcome Her Royal Highness the Countess of Wessex to its grand opening on Thursday 8 July 2010.

The Countess will be accompanied on a tour of this new garden and retail centre by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Cambridgeshire, Hugh Duberly Esq CBE. Exact details of the visit are yet to be announced.

Gordon Edington, Chairman of Peterborough Garden Park, said: "We are delighted that The Countess will be officiating at the grand opening of the Park. The visit is a great honour and will undoubtedly reinforce the status of the Park as a premier garden centre and leisure destination."

After five years of planning, Peterborough Garden Park opened its gates to the public in February this year. Since then, thousands of visitors have flocked to experience the exclusive Van Hage garden centre and the Park's other high quality lifestyle retailers, including Andronicas World of Coffee, Cotswold Outdoor, Cotton Traders, Hawkins Bazaar, Hobbycraft, Le Creuset, Maidenhead Aquatics, Past Times, PBC Books and Pets Corner.

Gordon added: "The Park offers so much more than great shopping; with plenty of cafés having outdoor seating, ample car parking, landscaped gardens and a children's play corner. The Park is a really attractive place to spend time. It is also important to us to contribute towards the growth and development of the city as a really special place to live, work and visit. As well as boosting the local economy by regenerating this land and creating new jobs, we are committed to working alongside the

community through initiatives like the Artistic Youth Project, which has encouraged local young people to put their creative talents to good use by creating vibrant panels around our children's play corner."

Marco Cereste, Leader of Peterborough City Council, said: "Peterborough Garden Park is a tremendous asset to the city, both in terms of the employment, retail and leisure opportunities it has created and its genuine commitment to the local community and the city as a whole. It is marvellous that the Park's contribution to Peterborough will be reflected on the day of its grand opening with a visit from Her Royal Highness the Countess of Wessex."

For more information on Peterborough Garden Park, log onto www.peterboroughgardenpark.co.uk.

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Notes to Editors

Peterborough Garden Park is an impressive new development located just off the Eye roundabout in Peterborough. It combines the UK's premier garden centre with an exciting mix of lifestyle retailers, offering a superior retail and leisure experience all year round. Set against a backdrop of generous landscaping, Peterborough Garden Park has something for everyone, providing a day out for the whole family.

The Park combines the attributes of a traditional garden centre in Van Hage's dramatic 'Crystal Palace' premises with a mix of lifestyle retailers, including Andronicas World of Coffee, Cotswold Outdoor, Cotton Traders, Hawkins Bazaar, Hobbycraft, Le Creuset, Maidenhead Aquatics, Past Times, PBC Books and Pets Corner.

Despite problems of road access during the first weekend, and works being undertaken to improve the Eye roundabout, traffic is flowing well and access is easy.

Media contacts

Peterborough Garden Park Chairman, Gordon Edington, is happy to do interviews and photographs.

For media requests please contact Rebecca Stephens or Kelly Allnutt at Athene Communications on 01733 207334, email rebecca@athene-communications.co.uk, or call 07879 633 796.