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LOCAL COMMUNITY SHOWS SUPPORT FOR WATERFALLS COUNTRY ESTATE

Local residents in Ridsdale, Northumberland have backed plans for a brand new luxury, eco friendly holiday resort in the area, at a recent community event where they were invited to feed back on the project.

Twenty residents attended the Waterfalls Country Estate consultation at The Gun Inn in Ridsdale, all voting in support of the plans.

Waterfalls Country Estate is a 14 acre site, just off the A68, which is currently going through the planning process. If permission is granted, the sustainably designed development will boast outstanding facilities to attract tourists from all over the UK and further afield and will bring 56FTE jobs to the area, as well as creating over 100 new jobs in the construction industry and a further 20 full time roles on site.

Project director Sherod Walker said: "We've undertaken extensive consultations for this project with bodies including the Environment Agency, Natural England, One North East, Northumberland Tourism and Northumberland National Parks. We've also consulted with other local residents and businesses.

"We value all feedback and, in the case of the Ridsdale community meeting, it was fantastic to hear such strong support from attendees. We've also offered everyone who couldn't attend the meeting the chance to feedback via our website so that everyone can have their say.

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“Waterfalls Country Estate will offer a unique tourist destination that would be of huge benefit to the local community, by bringing prosperity and new jobs to the area. The development will also enhance the local landscape as it is designed to integrate with rural Northumberland.

“We look forward to the planning decision early next year and, if permission is granted, work will start imminently on this exceptional tourist destination in the heart of rural Northumberland.”

Peter Stobie, Ridsdale resident, commented: “I feel that the Waterfalls development is likely to be of significant benefit to the North Tyne and Ridsdale area.”

Liz Askew, landlady of The Gun Inn pub in Ridsdale, said: “Waterfalls will bring increased footfall to the area – the more people come here, the more people will spend money here which will hopefully be spread around local businesses as well as Waterfalls. It will also bring jobs, helping to employ local people in an area where jobs are scarce.

“The plans look great – everything will blend in with the surroundings and it will enhance what we already have in the area.”

As well as Northumberland, the Waterfalls development will also have a positive impact on the wider regional economy in North East England - not only boosting



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tourism, but also creating an additional spend within the region of £2million, according to an Economic Impact Assessment by Tourism UK Ltd.

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Sherod added: "Tourism is already a major part of the North East regional economy, contributing almost £4bn and employing more than 60,000 people. The Waterfalls Country Estate development would be another fantastic boost for the tourism industry in the North East."

Waterfalls Country Estate will have 18 luxury chalets and three high quality holiday cottages, converted from existing stone barns. The sustainably designed resort will use locally sourced, traditional materials of slate, timber, stone and sedum-type roofs and also house a restaurant and bar, pool and beauty spa, a state of the art equestrian centre and sporting facilities. The chalets will be secluded and give excellent panoramic views over the Northumberland countryside.

For further details on Waterfalls Country Estate, please visit

www.waterfallsestate.co.uk

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Notes to Editors:

- Waterfalls will be a unique luxury eco holiday resort in the heart of rural Northumberland. Set in a 16 acre site, it will offer a traditional country estate experience for visitors looking for a truly memorable holiday in this beautiful county.
- The exclusive accommodation will comprise 18 luxury chalets and three holiday cottages (converted from existing stone barns) designed and equipped to the highest standards, whilst site facilities include a restaurant, bar, pool and beauty spa. Waterfalls will also have a state of the art equestrian centre.
- Sherod Walker won the Young Businessman of the Year accolade at the Pride in Tynedale Awards in 2005 and was runner up in 2006.