

## Press Statement: North St / The Phoenix

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### A development that Lewes can be proud of

After an open market competition, a landmark moment has been reached at which developer Human Nature has agreed terms to buy the North Street site in Lewes.

Jonathan Smales, Co-Founder and CEO of Human Nature and a Lewes resident said, "We're absolutely delighted to have reached this point and expect to complete the purchase by early February. We're determined to get on and deliver this important regeneration project for the town, including the long awaited integrated health hub, flood defences, and much needed homes and work-spaces. We will be making good use of the technical information associated with the existing planning consent, however the scheme needs to be redesigned for greater viability, liveability and to be fit to meet the challenges of the climate crisis. We intend to move forward at speed, take the site out of limbo and build a neighbourhood that Lewes can be really proud of."

"We know that having declared climate emergencies the District and Town Councils, are deeply engaged in exploring how to rethink the town and build a better future for all who live, work and visit here. We will support them in this through our planning work and re-design, in the type of homes we build and the materials we use in construction, via the energy supply and by creating a low traffic, super green, high quality, sustainable new neighbourhood on the Phoenix."

Human Nature has recently opened a head office on Lewes High Street from where all its projects are being led. A site office will be established on the Phoenix and all will be welcome to visit and join in crafting future plans. Human Nature is deeply committed to meaningful and creative public engagement.

One of the founders of Human Nature, Joanna Yarrow, until recently Global Head of Sustainable and Healthy Living at IKEA in Sweden, was brought up in Lewes where her grandfather, Reg Yarrow, was Mayor on several occasions. She is determined to help deliver a scheme of the highest quality for her hometown. Joanna said, "I couldn't be prouder. Reg would have loved this and celebrated with a pint or two of Harveys!"

Local involvement in the Phoenix project goes even further as much of the funding to acquire the site has come from private local investors. "These people really care about the future of Lewes and its wonderful community," said Jonathan, adding "there will be challenges in the months ahead, the infrastructure is expensive and we are paying a full commercial price for the land. However, we will aim high and look forward to working closely with the National Park, the Councils and organisations across the town in the months ahead, culminating in a major community design event in the Spring 2021."

"In the meantime, we will be contacting all the existing tenants in the coming days to appraise and reassure them regarding the timeline. It is our hope that some will be rehoused within the future development and for others, who require more space, we will do our utmost to assist in keeping them in Lewes."

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