

The logo for TOWN. consists of the word "TOWN." in a bold, white, sans-serif font, centered within a solid black square.The logo for TRIVSELHUS features a circular emblem containing a stylized 'T' and 'H' symbol, positioned above the company name "TRIVSELHUS" in a bold, black, sans-serif font.

TRIVSELHUS

## Love Wolverton completes Agora purchase.

Love Wolverton Ltd. has completed the acquisition of the Agora Centre, clearing another major hurdle to the long-awaited regeneration of the prominent Wolverton town centre site. The company, a partnership between innovative UK developer TOWN and Swedish builder Trivselhus, now owns the building outright, clearing the way for demolition and redevelopment if Milton Keynes Council approves plans being drawn up for submission in summer 2019.

News of the acquisition comes on the day that a report of a workshop held on 7<sup>th</sup> March with around 60 representatives of local councils, businesses, churches and community organisations to discuss emerging plans for the site's redevelopment was published.

Jonny Anstead, Director of TOWN, said:

*"This is an important milestone in the regeneration of the Agora. Now acquisition of the building is complete, provided we can achieve planning permission the scheme will definitely go ahead. The response of local stakeholders to the emerging plans we shared recently was fantastic, and their input has already improved the proposals. Milton Keynes Council has also been incredibly supportive. We're looking forward to exhibiting more detailed plans for local people to see later in the Spring prior to putting in a planning application."*

The proposed mixed-use scheme will include:

- Reinstatement of Radcliffe Street between Church Street and The Square;
- New local shops and services along Radcliffe Street and Church Street, including a small supermarket to replace the former Co-op;
- Over 100 new homes, including around 50 family homes built with the super-sustainable Trivselhus timber building system, plus new shared-ownership apartments;
- Renewable energy technologies, potentially linked to a community microgrid; and
- Flexible on- and-off-site car and cycle parking for residents and town centre visitors.

The Agora is now empty and, once a formal building record has been undertaken, will be hoarded and partially stripped out in preparation for demolition. The building is in designated conservation area, so planning permission is needed before it can be knocked down. TOWN also revealed plans for activities on the site over the coming months.

Neil Murphy, TOWN Director, said:

*"The Agora itself isn't suitable for temporary occupation, but we'll be looking to work with local people to animate the space in front of the building on Church Street with activities that mark the passing of the Agora, look ahead to new uses for the site and give people extra reasons to visit the town centre over the summer. Meanwhile, the Agora car park will remain open and in use for the foreseeable future."*

Public consultation on detailed proposals is expected in early June prior to submission of a full planning application in July. The regeneration scheme is expected to cost £25 million and take between three and four years to complete.

Ends.

## Notes to editors

1. Wolverton Agora is a shopping and leisure centre in central Wolverton built in the late 1970s by the Milton Keynes Development Corporation. Since the early 1980s, the Agora Centre has been in a succession of private ownerships. It is currently occupied by a number of small retail businesses and a covered market. The Agora Car Park is owned by Milton Keynes Council and leased to the owner of the Agora Centre.
2. Milton Keynes Council identified the Agora as having “redevelopment potential” in a 2004 Wolverton Regeneration Strategy SPG and in 2013 adopted the Agora Development Brief SPD in 2013 to guide comprehensive redevelopment of the site.
3. The Council adopted the Wolverton Neighbourhood Plan in 2015. The Plan was prepared by Future Wolverton and Wolverton and Greenleys Town Council, with the regeneration opportunity presented by the Agora being the “principal reason” for the instigation of a neighbourhood plan. The Plan requires redevelopment to: follow the historic grid street pattern and reinstate Radcliffe Street; provide active retail frontage including to Church Street; incorporate public open space; retain views of St George’s Church; be between two and four storeys in height; and provide parking accessible to town centre users, including an element of on-street parking.
4. In 2016, the Council granted planning permission for a retail-led mixed-use redevelopment scheme which did not proceed.
5. In December 2017, Milton Keynes Council took a delegated decision to dispose of the Agora Car Park to TOWN, subject to TOWN acquiring the Agora Centre and to planning permission being obtained for an approved scheme.
6. TOWN ([www.wearetown.co.uk](http://www.wearetown.co.uk)) is a developer and custom-build enabler established in 2014 to deliver good homes in proper streets and neighbourhoods. TOWN’s work includes the planning and enabling of major new residential-led developments in Norwich and Cambridge in partnership with U+I plc, as well as smaller direct developments. TOWN’s first built scheme, delivered in partnership with Trivselhus, is [Marmalade Lane](#) in Cambridge, a custom-built cohousing development including 42 homes with shared facilities and gardens.
7. Trivselhus ([www.trivselhus.co.uk](http://www.trivselhus.co.uk)) is a Swedish developer that has been creating sustainable homes of unrivalled quality for over 20 years. Trivselhus’s Climate Shield® system delivers a superior level of insulation, air tightness and energy-efficiency through the manufacture of closed panel timber frame walls in Sweden. Trivselhus is owned by Södra, Sweden’s largest privately-owned forestry cooperative, with over 50,000 members, 3,500 employees and annual sales of 17 billion SEK. SODRA is an ethically run, climate-positive company and it plants 3 trees for every 1 harvested. In addition to developing Marmalade Lane with TOWN, Trivselhus is behind the popular [Sommar Place](#) development in Broughton, Milton Keynes.
8. The Wolverton Transport Working Group was set up in early 2018 to provide a forum for discussing issues related to transport and parking arising from the proposed redevelopment of the Agora Centre and car park. It includes representatives from Milton Keynes Council, TOWN, the Town Council, Future Wolverton, Wolverton Business Forum and local churches.

Press enquiries and further information:

- Neil Murphy, Director, TOWN (07714 097 924)