

## Issued on behalf of Onward Holdings Ltd

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## ONYX RETAIL PARK IS HOME TO AWARD-WINNING BAKER'S SHOP

Onyx Retail Park, developed by Onward Holdings Ltd, has an award-winning bakery on site after the Greggs store was declared a joint winner of the retailer's prestigious Shop of the Year award for 2012, screened in the final episode of Sky 1's documentary series Greggs: More than meats the pie.

Greggs the Baker was one of the first retailers to lease a unit on the former colliery site in Wath-Upon-Dearne, South Yorkshire. The shop has been open for business for less than a year but was already winner of the regional heats over 200 other shops, before sharing the coveted nationwide prize with an outlet in Scotland.

Sky's cameras were also on hand at the Onyx Retail Park when the judges arrived at the Greggs shop to see how the staff performed with the steady stream of customers attracted by the Park's superb location on the former Manvers Colliery, mid-way between Barnsley and Rotherham.

Delighted store manager, Sheena Dufton, who was always confident the shop would do well, told Sky: "I go home with a smile on my face, we're so proud of the shop. This award means the world. We put so much work into the shop."

This latest boost for the Onyx Retail Park follows the start of Phase Two construction. More than 40 invited guests and civic dignitaries witnessed Councillor Foden, the Mayor of Rotherham and his wife Kath, the Mayoress, cut the first turf to mark the latest chapter in the area's regeneration into a popular shopping and eating destination that has so far led to the creation of around 100 new jobs.

Already 60% of Phase Two is pre-let or under offer with grocery giant Spar, a well-known charity and a renowned fish and chip chain set to join other blue-chip names on the site. These include Greggs, Domino's Pizza and Subway, as well as Motor World. In addition two restaurants, Thai Garden Café and Bistro 63, enhance the culinary range on offer to visitors.

Adjacent to 1,100 homes, the Onyx Retail Park is also surrounded by industrial development and outdoor leisure facilities, giving rise to an impressive 18,000 passing vehicle movements per day on the A633, according to figures provided by Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council.

Unlike many new opportunities that come onto the market, it is of little doubt that this high volume of passing trade and the resulting footfall provides an initial strong customer base on which to build, making it an ideal location for a wide range of prospective businesses.

In full the Onyx Retail Park comprises 17,500 square feet of retail space and holds a cross-section of planning consent including A1 (retail), A2 (financial), A3 (food) and A5 (hot food to take away).

Onward Holdings director, Neil Storey, said: "I would like to congratulate the staff of Greggs at the Onyx Retail Park for their achievement. To have an award-winning store on the site is fantastic news, particularly as Greggs was one of the early pioneers who took the decision to locate here during a commercially challenging time."

The Onyx Retail Park is helping to put Wath-Upon-Dearne on the retail map. It is now home to Greggs' star bakery in the UK and is becoming a prime site for other high street powerhouses to set up new stores.

Site promotion is being handled by Andrew Miller Chartered Surveyors of Sheffield. END

## Background

Onward Holdings has been involved in warehousing and industrial estates owned and run by the company since 1930. Today, this family-run business is primarily involved in development and construction, including the provision of multi-sized warehouse facilities in the M62/M1/A1 corridor of West Yorkshire, and residential and mixed-use developments.

In addition to ONYX the business has an exciting development at Green Lane Industrial Estate at Featherstone and a large industrial estate in Scunthorpe, North Lincolnshire. The Scunthorpe estate is currently being developed and offers commercial and industrial land and buildings suitable for a variety of users on either a freehold or leasehold basis.

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