

**Issued on behalf of Onward Holdings Ltd****Date: March 11 2013****Ref: PR20a Rotherham Council****ROTHERHAM COUNCIL PRAISES ONYX RETAIL PARK'S ROLE IN BOOSTING LOCAL ECONOMY**

Onyx Retail Park, developed by Onward Holdings Ltd on a former derelict colliery site in South Yorkshire, is playing a huge part in the successful regeneration of the surrounding area, according to the local council.

Rotherham Investment and Development Office (RiDO), the regeneration arm of the Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council, hailed the Onyx Retail Park in Wath-Upon-Dearne as an attractive project having a positive impact on the local community by bringing much needed employment and shopping opportunities to the area.

RiDO Investment Officer, Dean Hughes, said: "This high quality scheme provides welcome jobs for local people. In the current economic climate successful retail developments like this one are good news for everyone. There is free support available to people looking to start up a business in the area and this may include financial incentives depending on the project detail."

In addition to possible funding help for businesses considering locating to the Onyx Retail Park, the council's free support services include identifying suitable properties, recruitment and training support and supply chain links.

The Onyx Retail Park has been operating for just over a year and comprises 17,500 square feet of retail space. It is based almost mid-way between Barnsley and Rotherham and is located at the former Manvers main colliery. It's part of a £130million redevelopment of the area, which includes an agreement to build a further 1,100 nearby houses, over which half are now built and occupied.

It is close to the 250 acres Old Moor RSPB Nature Reserve and Wetlands which attracts around 90,000 visitors per year, the Manvers Lake and Parkland, the award-winning Waterfront Golf Course and not forgetting the popular Trans Pennine trail.

Grocery chain SPAR is the latest recognised brand to move to the thriving site following in the footsteps of Greggs the Bakers, Subway, Domino's Pizza and Motor World, while KFC and Costa Coffee are both trading immediately adjacent to the retail park.

Onward Holdings Ltd PR20a Rotherham Council continued:

The decision by SPAR to locate on the Onyx Retail Park has enabled Onward Holdings to bring forward Phase 2 of the development, comprising 10,000 square feet, which was originally not planned to take place until later in the year.

SPAR is leasing 4,000 square feet from Onward Holdings for its new store, leaving the remaining units in Phase 2 available for lease in a range of configurations from 1,000 to 6,000 square feet. The last remaining unit in Phase 1 is now under offer.

Onward Holdings Director, Neil Storey, said the aim is to make the Onyx Retail Park the place to go in South Yorkshire for the best shopping and eating experience, with the knock-on benefits this will bring for the area in the shape of more jobs, as well as the local community enjoying an excellent retailing experience on its doorstep.

He commented: "It's great that the local council is supporting the Onyx Retail Park and we are delighted to be working alongside them in trying to bring long-term prosperity to this area of South Yorkshire. The interest and take up of units has been far higher than expected and tenants have reported excellent trading."

For further information about the Onyx Retail Park please contact Andrew Miller Chartered Surveyors on 0114 236 2340. Potential investors interested in the area can also contact Rotherham Investment and Development Office on 01709 25444. An overview of the RiDO's support services can be found at www.rido.org.uk.

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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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