

Buntings: 'We have backing' for Stour plan

by Ryan Goad

A MAJOR 117-acre heritage and conservation centre planned for Great Horkesley has received a massive vote of confidence, according to the family firm behind the plans.

Bunting & Sons say 96% of people who visited exhibitions of their plans for the centre were either supportive or voiced no objection to the scheme.

The firm wants to build the centre – which will include a gallery showing “works of Constable and other great artists of the region” – on the site of redundant glasshouses.

About 2,000 people saw plans

for the centre during a four-week consultation, including exhibitions at Colchester’s town hall, at Great Horkesley and Nayland.

Buntings has revealed that of those responding to the invitation to comment, 3.9% raised objections.

Kate Bunting, a partner, said: “We were hoping for a strong turnout of local people. We were more than satisfied on that score, and appreciate the time and trouble people went to in order to participate and complete the feedback forms.

“We have now had an expression of opinion based on evi-

dence gathered at first hand. This makes clear what the overwhelming majority wants.

“In many cases people changed their minds once they understood what the proposals truly amount to.

“Such a positive response comes as no surprise except perhaps to those trying to stir up antipathy through emotive and inaccurate predictions of harm.”

A full planning application is expected to be submitted to Colchester Borough Council later in the summer.

● **What's your view? Email mark.crossley@sudburytoday.co.uk or write to The editor, Suffolk Free Press, Borehamgate Precinct, Sudbury CO10 2EE.**