JOINT STATEMENT OF MIDAS HOMES LIMITED ("MHL") AND SOUTH HAMS DISTRICT COUNCIL ("SHDC") RELATING TO MATTERS AT THE HEATHWAY WEST DEVELOPMENT TOTNES ("THE DEVELOPMENT")

1. Footpaths Within the Development

The footpaths within the Development are owned by SHDC and are private i.e. they do not form part of the Public Highway and therefore are not publicly maintained. They will be passed to the Heathway West Management Company.

The footpaths whilst private are not for the sole use of the residents of the Development and can be used by members of the public to access Leechwell Garden to the rear of the Development.

MHL and SHDC are currently considering whether or not public access to some of the private footpaths at the front of the Development (shown coloured yellow and cross hatched black on the annexed plan) should be restricted for residents use only, and will come back again once a decision has been made.

2. Gates Giving Access From The Development to Leechwell Garden

Both MHL and SHDC are prepared to propose an arrangement whereby access to Leechwell Gardens by members of the public is restricted between dusk and 8 am (or other alternative hours to the agreement of SHDC). This arrangement would provide that a nominated organisation, person or persons will oversee the locking and unlocking of the gates shown in the positions marked red on the annexed plan. However, it should be noted that neither MHL nor SHDC will be responsible for the operation or management of this arrangement and no guarantee as to the future locking of gates can therefore be given.

The precise hours of opening, the method and management of the gating and responsibility for closing of gates and other access arrangements will need to be agreed with SHDC in an "Access Agreement".

3. Other Matters

SHDC is currently completing the first stage of the works in the creation of the infrastructure for Leechwell Garden. It is hoped that this will be supplemented during the Summer 2010 with further works funded through the Big Lottery ahead of a public opening of the Garden, either in the Autumn 2010 or Spring 2011. It is proposed that these works will take place ahead of the opening and SHDC proposes to consider the following areas of work.

- i) the establishment of an informal **woodland play area** on the upper middle part of Leechwell Garden (rather than at the lower part as shown on previous plans)
- ii) the establishment of planting belts on the banks above Heathway West.
- iii) the removal of the temporary **bark path** shown blue on the annexed plan and the implementation of the original route of the garden path (with planting) between the points A & B.
- iv) to develop a joint management plan for the Leechwell Garden.

