

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE MONDAY 7 OCTOBER 2024

## AMBITIOUS PLANS FOR JOBS GROWTH AT GARDEN CENTRE SITE

Exciting new plans are being drawn up for development at the current Malmesbury Garden Centre site on the edge of the town, which could bring up to 250 new jobs. The large 4.05-hectare (10 acre) plot on Crudwell Road beside the A429 just north of Malmesbury saw a new Aldi store open three years ago. Now local businessman owner Andy Nurden and his team are bringing forward plans for the rest of the site. These are likely to include a new Garden Centre next to Aldi and a number of commercial buildings for light industrial use. Local Wiltshire Councillors Gavin Grant and Martin Smith met Mr Nurden to tour the site. "I know there is a real need for new buildings for commercial and light industrial use in our area" said Councillor Smith, whose Sherston Division on Wiltshire Council includes the site.

"Local businesses who have outgrown their current facilities need larger premises to move into. There is a real shortage of these in our area. This puts existing local jobs at risk, let alone the new jobs that could be created through expansion. The plans for this site meet a really important need". Former Malmesbury Mayor and Wiltshire Councillor, Gavin Grant said "It's a relief to visit a site that will create space for local jobs rather than yet more housing. We have hundreds of new houses already under construction or with permission to be built around Malmesbury. With jobs losses at Dyson, these plans and the jobs they will bring to our area are a welcome boost to Malmesbury's economy." Site owner Andy Nurden was born and bred in Malmesbury and runs his garden centre and local construction business from the site. He and his team are already in discussion with local and regional businesses to ensure that the plans for the site will meet their needs. Talking to the Councillors about his plans, Andy Nurden said " My home town of Malmesbury is important to me and my family. We could see up to 250 new jobs on this site for the people who live here and those who will move into the new homes being built. "I am a big supporter of our town centre businesses and do not want to do anything here that will hit them. I want to see businesses and local jobs come here that will put more cash in the hands of locally employed people to spend here in Malmesbury." Mr Nurden's construction business will remain on the site, and he plans to build a brand-new garden centre, creating opportunities for apprenticeships in both businesses for local school and college leavers.

"Not every young person is heading for university. Many will want to learn the practical skills that come with construction, working with plant, whether that be mechanical or those that grow in the soil. I want our businesses to offer those opportunities to them." he added. Mr Nurden expects to submit his outline plans for the development of the site to Wiltshire Council's Planning Department in the next few months.

NOTES TO EDITORS

1. Indicative Site Plan enclosed

2. Photos of Andy Nurden, Cllr Grant and Cllr Smith on a tour of the site enclosed

3. Contacts: · Andy Nurden, Director AC Nurden Ltd andy@nurden.ac 01666  
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· Cllr Gavin Grant, Wiltshire Councillor and Malmesbury Town Team co-director  
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· Cllr Martin Smith, Wiltshire Councillor for Sherston whose ward includes the  
new development

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