



Edward Browning at the exhibition on initial proposals for residential development
on the former Bampton Brothers' site

Former Bampton Brothers Site Fails To Attract A New Owner With £1.6 Million Guide Price

Derelict buildings which could soon be home to more than 60 new homes have failed to secure the interest of bidders at an auction in London and look destined to remain derelict for a little while longer. The former Bampton Brothers Works on Stratton Road came under the hammer at auctioneers Barnard Marcus in London on Monday afternoon with a guide price of £1,600,000. But with a reserve of £1,700,000 the former vehicle body repair company's empty buildings and adjoining land failed to attract a buyer and the hammer fell without securing a new owner, despite a top bid of £1,490,000. The 3.2 acre site, described as a 'cleared, irregular site' is listed as coming with outline planning permission from Swindon Borough Council for up to 61 homes to be built on the site of the former works, after numbers 54 and 56 Stratton Road are demolished to make way for an access road into the new development. Draft plans illustrated as part of the auction outline a mixture of two to four bedroom houses and one and two bedroom flats, laid out in a triangular formation off the main access road. A spokesman for Barnard Marcus auctioneers said: 'It is possible that the lot could come back in our December Auction, which is being held on Tuesday, December 15, but we are also taking offers directly ahead of then also. 'With existing access via Shrivenham Road, the site is situated to the east end of Swindon Town Centre.'

Communication links include road links to the A419 and the M4 corridor, local bus services and Swindon Rail Station. The town centre or Swindon Outlet Centre provides a range of shopping amenities, cafes, bars and restaurants.

Bampton Brothers were based at the site for 70 years and previously there had been a number of proposals to build homes on the land. But none of these plans, which would have seen upwards of 70 homes built, have come to fruition. Earlier this year Hunter Page Planning held a public consultation for the current draft plans of up to 61 new homes to gauge public support for turning the brown field site into a new housing development. During the time since the site fell vacant the Bampton Brothers site has stood derelict and has been targeted by vandals. Significant damage has been done to the disused buildings and in 2006 vandals started a fire on a former workshop on the land.

Evening Advertiser, 17 November 2015

©Wiltshire OPC Project/2016/Nigel Chalk