

14 April 2005

**George Wimpey Plc
Annual General Meeting**

John Robinson, Chairman of George Wimpey Plc, made the following comments at today's Annual General Meeting.

Board Changes

I am delighted to welcome Anthony Reading to our Board as a Non-Executive Director, with effect from 15 April 2005. Tony's previous positions as an Executive Director of Tomkins Plc and Chairman and Chief Executive of Tomkins Corp, USA will provide invaluable experience to the Group. Currently Tony is also a Non-Executive Director of The Laird Group Plc, Spectris Plc and e2v Technologies Plc.

There are no further details to be disclosed pursuant to paragraph 16.4(b) of the Listing Rules of the UK Listing Authority in relation to the appointment of Anthony Reading.

Current Trading

After a number of strong years, we saw a considerable softening of the UK housing market in the middle of last year. As reported in February, 2005 started encouragingly, with growth in both visitors and reservations. Since then, visitor levels and reservations have remained stable, though at a level below the very strong 2004. Whilst headline prices have remained broadly unchanged since summer 2004, the use of incentives has increased to sustain sales momentum. Outlet numbers continue to be around 10% ahead of last year.

The UK housing market will continue to be supported by the ongoing shortage of supply and underlying consumer confidence. However, it remains too early to predict the outlook for the full year whilst there are uncertainties surrounding the forthcoming general election and possible interest rate changes. The lower sales rates since last summer mean the year as a whole will be more second half weighted.

In the US, housing markets remain strong. Morrison Homes has experienced visitor levels, selling rates, selling prices and margins ahead of the same period last year. With continuing population and employment growth in Morrison's markets, the outlook for the rest of the year and beyond remains very encouraging.

Ends

Enquiries

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