

23 April 2010

Mayor of Kirklees opens The Shearings

On 16 April 2010 the Mayor of Kirklees, Councillor Julie Stewart-Turner, officially opened the Shearings, Connect Housing's development of 22 new energy-efficient homes in Hightown, Liversedge. The weather cooperated wonderfully as the proceedings got underway: a ribbon was cut, a tree was planted, and the Mayor presented the new residents with colourful hanging baskets.

The Mayor had the opportunity to tour the estate and meet some of the families who have come together to create this new community – and to learn about the excellent energy efficiency features of these houses. Photovoltaic roof tiles which capture the sun's energy combine with loft and cavity wall insulation to give these homes an EPC rating of 92, placing them in band A – which is brilliant! Anticipated energy costs per year for each home are just £369 for gas and electric combined.

Following the official ceremony, there were lots of activities for the local kids to get involved with, including a bouncy castle, circus skills lessons and face painting. The fun went on right through lunch, which was served at nearby Saint Barnabas Church.

The project was funded jointly by Connect Housing, the Homes and Communities Agency, the Low Carbon Building Programme and Kirklees Council. Ground was broken at the site in March 2009 and construction took just 12 months.

For further information please contact Helen Lennon (helen.lennon@connecthousing.org.uk) or Phil Lacey (phil.lacey@connecthousing.org.uk) at Connect Housing Association, 205 Roundhay Road, Leeds LS8 4HS, tel 0113 235 0202.

Notes for the Editor

- The Shearings comprises 22 homes in a mix of 2- and 3-bedroom houses.
- Build cost per house is £127k, of which £11k is for the photovoltaic tiles.
- £79.4k grant funding per house altogether (£69k from the Homes and Communities Agency, £5.4k from the Low Carbon Building Programme and £5k from Kirklees Council). Connect funded the balance of £47.6k per house.
- Rent for 2-bedroom house is £76.54 rent + £2.37 service charge per week.
- Rent for 3-bedroom end terrace house is £85.51 rent + £2.37 service charge per week.
- Lettings: %100 nominations from Kirklees Council
- Connect Housing is a not-for-profit housing association with approximately 3,000 homes across Leeds, Kirklees and Calderdale. It was formed in 2006 by the merger of two housing associations, The Ridings and West Yorkshire.

These photographs (and more) are available as high-quality 300 dpi jpgs from David Troupes (david.troupes@connecthousing.org.uk, 0113 235 0202).



The Mayor of Kirklees Councillor Julie Stewart-Turner cutting the ribbon to open the Shearings.



The Mayor planting a tree, accompanied by Councillor Ann Raistrick (right) and Jenny Brierley, Connect's Chief Executive.



The Shearings residents show off their new hanging baskets, along with the Mayor and members of Connect's Residents Federation.



The Mayor sharing a cuppa with Shearings residents.