

PRESS RELEASE

29th April 2003

That's MY home

It's not often you can see your new home built from scratch, but some tenants in Ashton-under-Lyne are doing just that!

This week, Mrs. Maureen Consiglio was shown round progress on site at Crickets Lane in Ashton. Mrs. Consiglio is among several tenants whose existing homes on Wellington Road face demolition to make way for the Metrolink tram station in Ashton town centre. New Charter Housing Trust Group is to provide 21 new flats for rent on the former car park on Crickets Lane. It's just a short walk up Penny Meadow to the new homes and those moving are keen to see builders construct their chosen flats.

The prestigious development is the second new scheme by New Charter. Mrs. Consiglio walked round with Jimmy Burns, Chair of New Charter Housing (North) and told him how many of her existing neighbours were elderly and wanted to move together. "We're a town centre community that has been together a long time" she said. "Some of the residents are in their 90's and have lived on Wellington Road since the flats were built 40

years ago. We needed to be moved as a community and I'm pleased we have got our way."

Many of the new homes are specially designed for the residents. Each have picked the flat they wanted, and went to a New Charter Choice Centre to pick their own bathrooms, kitchens, tiling and floorcoverings. Incorporated into the scheme are many features for disabled living. This compact estate will also be serviced by two lifts.

Commenting on the scheme, Chair of New Charter Housing (North) Jimmy Burns said "Involving residents in the design and specification of these homes is what New Charter is all about. Many residents would have preferred to stay in Wellington Road but the Metrolink station has forced us all to look at alternatives. It's great to be able to provide some new homes alongside the millions we are spending on improving our other homes".

ENDS

Notes for Editors

- This is the second new development by New Charter, following the opening of 13 bungalows in Enville Street, Audenshaw in December 2002.
- With a turnover of £44 million a year and a workforce of 800, New Charter is one of the twenty largest Registered Social Landlords (RSL's) in the country, and is regulated by The Housing Corporation, a Government watchdog.
- New Charter Choice Centres are temporary uses of homes on estates to show residents examples of fixtures and fittings and let them choose.

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