

PRESS RELEASE

10th November 2003

Stumped for words



Photos available on application

Future residents of New Charter's next development at Crickets Lane in Ashton-under-Lyne were lost in admiration as they were shown round the scheme this weekend.

Many of the tenants live on Wellington Road in the town centre. Their homes face demolition to make way for the Metrolink tram station in Ashton. 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 trip up Penny Meadow to the new homes and those moving were keen to start measuring up for carpets and curtains. New Charter will meet the cost of these as part of the total scheme cost.

Tenants were keen to see the progress made by builders Richardson Projects of Rochdale. One tenant, Mrs Rose Dixon has lived in the Wellington Road flats since they were built in



business for neighbourhoods

1962. “Like everyone else, I didn’t really want to move. But New Charter has helped us through the uncertain times and I’m bowled over with these new homes” she said.

Unlike most new homes built for rent, these have been built without any Housing Corporation or government grant. New Charter successfully negotiated with the Greater Manchester Passenger Transport Executive to get adequate compensation to cover the cost, and rents for those moving in will be from around £49 a week.

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.

“ I’m delighted to be able to rehouse a community. Many of the residents are elderly and are good neighbours to one another. It’s great to be able to provide some new homes alongside the millions we are spending on improving our other homes”.

Many of the new homes are specially designed for the residents. Each have picked the flat they wanted, and chosen their own bathrooms, kitchens, tiling and floorcoverings. Incorporated into the scheme are many features for disabled living. This compact estate will have two lifts, and should be ready for occupation in the New Year.



NOTES FOR EDITORS

1. New Charter formed in 1999 as the new landlords to own and manage nearly 16,400 properties transferred from Tameside Metropolitan Borough Council in Greater Manchester. With a turnover of £49million a year and a workforce of almost 800, New Charter is one of the twenty largest Registered Social Landlords (RSL's), and is regulated by The Housing Corporation, a Government watchdog.
2. This is the second new development by New Charter, following completion of 13 bungalows in Enville Street, Audenshaw in December 2002.
3. Richardson Projects won the Crickets Lane contract by tender. The total scheme costs to New Charter (including statutory home loss payments to tenants) will be close to £1.5m. The development will be handed over for occupation by the end of February 2004 and will be known as Wellington Court.

CONTACTS:

David Rigby or Paula Thomas - New Charter Publicity 0161 331 2000

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