



PRESS RELEASE

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TV adventurer holds the key

Pictures available

Ben Fogle has rowed the Atlantic, raced across the Sahara and explored Antarctica. But a successful repairs team who work in all weathers are hoping he will be discover them this spring.

New Charter Building Company based in Dukinfield has been shortlisted from more than 300 entries to the 2010 Housing Heroes Awards. And TV presenter Fogle will reveal the winners at London's Hilton Hotel on 14 May.

The awards are in their second year, and will once again shine the spotlight on the people and teams that are doing great work in the social housing sector. New Charter Building Company is in the final six for the accolade "Maintenance Team of the Year".

Managing Director Andy Stafford said: "Tenants are quite clear - repairs are the single most important issue for landlords to get right. Our responsive team work alongside our improvement squad to provide a 24 hour service. We're rightly proud of our performance which achieves over 83% overall satisfaction from customers each year.

"This winter's challenging weather conditions brought out the heroes in my workforce, and I'm hopeful we can attract this prestigious award."

Howard Farrand, President of the Chartered Institute of Housing said he was amazed by the fantastic people working in housing. "Our sector spends a great deal of time talking about policy and strategy, business plans and budgets, our visions and our mission statements. Of course all of these things are really important. But in my experience, it is the extraordinary people that do fantastic work for our customers that make the real difference.

"So I want to congratulate every finalist for getting this far in these awards. It was extremely tightly contested, and I look forward to helping to unveil the eventual winners in May."



business for neighbourhoods

Inside Housing's events director Ted Stevens said: "All the finalists have done brilliantly in getting this far. Well done to New Charter Building Company for getting shortlisted. The competition was really fierce with more than 40 entries in some categories."

The awards are organised by *Inside Housing* magazine and the Chartered Institute of Housing (CIH), and attracted a phenomenal response with submissions from across the UK. The awards are sponsored by Campbell Tickell, EMA, Asset Skills, Synergy Group and The Hire Standard.

NOTES FOR EDITORS

1. New Charter formed in 1999 as the new landlords to own and manage homes transferred from Tameside council in Greater Manchester. With a turnover of £70million a year and a workforce of 880, New Charter is one of the region's largest registered providers of social housing, and is regulated by the Tenant Services Authority, a Government watchdog. By incorporating Gedling Homes, the Group owns 18,600 homes. It was named in The Sunday Times 100 best companies to work for in 2009.
2. New Charter Building Company Limited is a wholly owned company set up to undertake repairs and investment across the New Charter stock. It quickly became the 'contractor of choice' by tenants and market share increased within the Group. It has expanded by winning external business from other social landlords and blue chip companies, and its profits are returned to the Group.
3. **iN business for neighbourhoods** is a long-term project highlighting housing associations' performance. As social businesses, housing associations do not make profit. They offer homes for rent and sale at prices local people can afford. Housing associations provide more than homes - they help create places where people want to live. Wherever you see the **iN business for neighbourhoods** sign, something great is happening in the area. Housing Associations who display this logo are committed to their customers, the neighbourhoods they work in and strive for excellence in everything they do.

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