

November 2008



PARTNERS' BRIEFING



ROWAN VILLAGE WINS NATIONAL HOUSING AWARD

Rowan Village, Staffordshire Housing Association's 'extra care' housing complex in Meir, has won a national housing award. It won the award in the 'meeting housing needs and aspirations' category at the 2008 UK Housing Awards, which are sponsored by the Chartered Institute of Housing and Inside Housing magazine.

Criteria for shortlisting included partnership working, innovation in meeting housing needs, and partnership working.

Development of the scheme was a partnership project funded by RENEW North Staffordshire, Staffordshire Housing Association, Stoke-on-Trent City Council, the Department of Health Extra Care Housing Fund, the Housing Corporation, West Midlands Strategic Health Authority and Stoke on Trent Primary Care Trust. Accord Housing provides care and support services on-site.

Rowan Village meets the changing needs of older people by providing flexible care and support on-site for residents to use as, when, and if they need it. It also has apartments specially reserved for intermediate care use, and for older carers and their learning disabled dependants. As well as 75 apartments, the complex offers a variety of communal facilities including a hairdressing salon, restaurant, conservatory, lounge and gym.

Older people from across North Staffordshire joined a Friends of Rowan Village Group and influenced the name of the village and the kinds of facilities and activities the village should offer.



Receiving the UK Housing Award award, from left to right, are: Joanna Stanaway, Senior Project Manager, Stoke on Trent City Council; Alan Slater, Head of Housing Services, Stoke on Trent City Council; Pauline Wilkinson, Rowan Village Project Board; Rob Annabale, Axis Design; Barry Pitts, Business Development Director, Staffordshire Housing Association; Mark Palethorpe, Head of Older People's Services, Stoke on Trent City Council; Emma Roberts, Regeneration Programme Manager, Staffordshire Housing Association; Gina Benson, Regeneration and Development Assistant, Staffordshire Housing Association.

RENEW TO CREATE ARCHIVE OF CHANGE FOR FUTURE

An archive of change mapping the path of regeneration across North Staffordshire is to be created for future generations.

RENEW North Staffordshire, in partnership with Stoke-on-Trent City Council's Cultural Development Team, is to commission a digital media artist/arts organisation to develop and manage a comprehensive archive of images and information as a permanent record of the changes that are taking place.

The project will capture and collate material about regeneration projects to date as well as record all aspects of the current RENEW funded regeneration programme for North Staffordshire until 2011.

Cllr Hazel Lyth, portfolio holder for enterprise and culture, said: "This is a fantastic opportunity for the city to record the major changes that are taking place through RENEW North Staffordshire's regeneration programme.

"Regeneration directly touches the lives of many local people and can radically change the physical environment that surrounds them. There is an obligation on RENEW and its partners to record and make available physical evidence - a project like this is

invaluable and will become important resource for current and future generations."

All existing material held by RENEW and its partners will be gathered together and collated, then catalogued and held in a database that, where possible, will provide high-resolution format images suitable for use by a range of local organisations, artists, youth clubs, schools and historical interest and photographic societies.

The material will be used for public exhibitions and publications and will populate a dedicated website allowing members of the public and community organisations to upload their own photographs and stories.



Images like this are to be made available in a regeneration archive

NEIGHBOURHOOD RENEWAL TEAM EARNS NATIONAL RECOGNITION

Stoke-on-Trent City Council's Neighbourhood Renewal Team has been nominated for a national award for helping relocate residents in Blurton.

The team is on a shortlist of three for the Public Body category at the 2008 Directory of Social Change Awards.

The Neighbourhood Renewal Team, which is funded by RENEW North Staffordshire, helps residents who have to move home as part of the regeneration programme. The winners will be announced at the Social Change Conference, to be held in London on December 8.

COMMUNITY WORKER ALSO NOMINATED FOR PUBLIC AWARD

Neighbourhood worker Lee Carroll, who is based at the Wellington Street Area Community Hall, has been nominated for two public recognition awards.

Lee has been shortlisted for the Community Improvement Champion accolade at the Stoke-on-Trent City Council's annual Citizen of the Year Awards. He is also in the running for Signal Radio's Unsung Hero Award.

Lee has lived in the Wellington Road area of the city for almost 30 years, and he's been neighbourhood worker for the area for four years. He uses his own experiences of moving as part of the area's regeneration programme to help and advise others in the same situation.

As well as helping residents through the moving house process, Lee also organises regular afternoon tea parties and a luncheon club – and he'll be cooking a festive lunch for around 40 residents on Christmas Day!

TEACHERS BUILD ON THEIR KNOWLEDGE

Teachers swapped their classrooms for a building site when they visited a housing project to pick up tips for a new construction-related diploma.

Ten staff from a variety of schools and colleges donned hard hats so they could take a look round the housing regeneration scheme at Coalville, in Weston Coyney.

During their day trip, teachers were shown examples of construction activity and found out about careers and training. The staff were from Endon High, Stoke-on-Trent College and Westwood College, in Leek.

MP PRAISES NEW DEVELOPMENT FOR VULNERABLE RESIDENTS

Rob Ffello MP joined Blurton residents to officially open a redevelopment that has transformed an area of Blurton.



Rob Ffello MP (left) , Phil Dawson of Stoke-on-Trent City Council's Neighbourhood Renewal Team, and Aspire Housing Group's Jane Price.

Aspire Housing was appointed by Stoke-on-Trent City Council, as part of the RENEW North Staffordshire housing market renewal programme, to lead on the development of a Masterplan for the Blurton and Newstead areas. As part of the plan, houses and bedsits in Denham Square were demolished and replaced with 17 new bungalows, including two specifically designed to temporarily house individuals with spinal injuries who have left hospital and are recovering.

Aspire Housing funded £1,000,000 of the project costs, and secured a further £920,000 from the Housing Corporation.

The official opening ceremony concluded with the planting of a tree on the site and a chance for residents to talk with Mr Ffello and representatives from the organisations involved, at a celebration at the nearby Winifred Gardens community centre.

JUNIOR HOUSING MINISTER VISITS WESTON HEIGHTS

Iain Wright MP, the Under Secretary of State for the Department of Communities and Local Government, visited Weston Heights in Stoke-on-Trent last month.

Mr Wright visited the £55 million landmark regeneration scheme, which is being undertaken by the Compendium Group with funding from RENEW North Staffordshire, during a visit organised by local Labour MP, Rob Ffello.

Mr Wright, whose responsibilities include housing policy and physical and housing-related regeneration, was given a tour of the former mining estate before meeting RENEW and Compendium staff, and some of the local residents from Meir and Weston Heights - formerly Coalville.

Phil Brundrett, RENEW's programme manager for the area, said: " The regeneration of Coalville is a real partnership effort. Weston Heights is a five-year community regeneration programme that will provide almost 300 new homes built for rent, shared ownership and for sale, both for existing and new residents.



Compendium's Dave Bullock and Neil Walker, Coalville Residents' Association's Pete Bennett and Ernie Clarke and MP Rob Ffello (right) watch as RENEW's Phil Brundrett greets Iain Wright MP.

BETTER PLACES ON THE WAY FOR KNUTTON AND CROSS HEATH

RENEW North Staffordshire has stepped in with match funding for several environmental improvement schemes being drawn up by housing association partner in the Knutton and Cross Heath area, Aspire Housing.

Almost 80 households in Wilton Street, Cross Heath, will be the first to be consulted on plans that include off-road parking, stairwell and balcony improvements, enhanced planting schemes and tree planting, as well as better signage.

Another 67 households in the Knutton area are to benefit from further environmental improvements under a £442,000 scheme, scheduled to start with community consultation in January, to improve the 'gateway' into Newcastle town centre. More than 200 additional properties in the area will also benefit from environmental enhancements in a project scheduled to start from January 2010.

The successful Knutton Terraces Heritage Works project that restored Victorian houses in the village to their former glory is now complete and a community celebration will take place within the next few weeks. The Knutton and Cross Heath Neighbourhood Management Pathfinder (NMP) and Beth Johnson Housing Association have funded Victorian-style window boxes and Aspire Housing is to install the boxes and sponsor the pots, compost and plants in time for the celebration.

Fifteen small-scale environmental improvements project applications submitted by local residents - to take advantage of the £100,000 funding opportunity for 2008-9 provided by RENEW North Staffordshire and Aspire Housing - have been scored and six projects will be the subject of further public consultation before they are implemented.

HAVE YOUR SAY

Please contact the RENEW North Staffordshire team on 01782 232024 if you have any comments or questions, or see www.renewnorthstuffs.gov.uk

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