

media information

For immediate release:

GHOST TOWN IS BROUGHT BACK TO LIFE!

Five years after the last resident moved out of Liverpool's Tancred Road in Anfield leaving it empty and derelict, work is beginning to refurbish the homes at the behest of local residents.

After consultation between Liverpool City Council and residents who are supporting the demolition of 1700 houses under the Housing Market Renewal initiative, local people decided they wanted to keep those in the Rockfield area to be refurbished.

With support from the Housing Corporation, work is now underway by the Affordable Housing Development Company (AHDC) to refurbish the derelict and abandoned houses. They were chosen to be the developer by Liverpool Council, Arena Housing Association and the community in late 2005.

The refurbishment of three and four bedroom houses in Tancred Road, which once suffered high levels of anti social behaviour, is the first stage in a three year programme. Two show homes in Tancred Road are expected to be finished mid June.

AHDC Chairman Dr Derek Smith said their aim was to help develop strong communities by providing quality houses which would encourage former residents to return to the area.

"What we are offering is a chance to buy into a street where everyone has the chance not only to feel proud but to share that pride in where they live. We want to help rebuild communities and that is why we will always give first choice to local people, and aim only to sell to owner-occupiers."

Dave Litherland is a Partnership Director within the Arena Housing Group, which owns a number of properties in the area, he said:

"We have nothing but praise and admiration for the residents left within this area who have patiently worked with partners to achieve a solution for the area. With Housing Corporation support for the area and the appointment of the AHDC as the developer we are pleased to see work now due to commence on bringing empty partially derelict homes back into residential use."

Cath Green, Liverpool's Assistant Executive Director for Housing and Neighbourhoods said:

“Starting this development is a fantastic achievement and testament to the hard work of the community, city council and our partners. We are improving areas that are suffering from years of under-investment and market collapse, but at the same time allowing residents to have a major say in how their area is shaped for the future and creating sustainable communities for many generations to come.”

A ‘drop in’ event to inform local residents about the plans and to attract prospective buyers is taking place at Liverpool Football Club, Reds Room, (Walton Breck Road entrance) between 1-8pm on Tuesday 27th March. Artist impressions of completed dwellings and details of internal specifications will be available.

Come and join us!

Journalists/photographers are invited to see details of the development on the 27th March at 2pm in the Reds Room at LFC.

Interviews will also be available along with photo opportunities in Tancred Road.

Notes to Editors:

- The Rockfield neighbourhood comprises 243 terraced properties built in 1900 – approx 99 are currently vacant.
- Liverpool City Council taking action to ensure private owners of vacant properties in the area improve them in conjunction with AHDC'S programme to the same high specification.
- LCC will be carrying out improvements to the frontage of private occupied properties in conjunction with AHDC programme.
- There will be a clause in the sale of properties to stay in owner occupation for 3 years to ensure long term sustainability of area.
- Purchasers ‘off plan’ will have a choice of internal specifications.

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March 22nd 2007.