

PRESS RELEASE

Homes on Fitton Hill Meet the 'Decent Homes Standard'

On 15th March 2004, 1,250 Council properties in Fitton Hill were transferred to Villages Housing. A number of these properties were demolished leaving a stock of 988 properties.

Villages had the challenge of bringing these properties up to the Government's Decent Homes Standard by 2010. A lot of work has been done over the last 4 years to improve people's homes on Fitton Hill to meet the standard.

The 'Decent Homes Standard' stipulates that homes should be made warm and weatherproof with modern facilities.

Villages have successfully completed the following works:

Installation of 748 kitchens

Installation of 695 bathrooms

Full central heating upgrades to 855 homes

Improved insulation at 609 homes and

407 homes have had replacement windows

So far 593 homes have had all five of the above elements done and successfully meet the Government standard. A further 400 properties have had 2 - 3 elements completed and are awaiting further work to ensure that every Villages home on Fitton Hill meets the standard by 2010.

This is what some residents have said about the improvements.

Mrs South from Springwood Hall Road received a new heating system and she said:

"The Contractors did a marvellous job with new heating, we're thrilled to bits."

Mr Lowe from Reins Lea Avenue had his bathroom replaced and said:

"We were delighted with the quality and speed of the work."

When the stock was transferred in 2004 NDC gave Villages a dowry of £6.9 million. This has helped Villages Housing significantly improve their stock and has contributed to the high number of homes in the area meeting the 'decent homes standard'.

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In line with the transfer agreement, Villages will be embarking on a wider environmental programme across the estate in the New Year. This will include additional car parking and improvement to green spaces on Fitton Hill. A range of consultation events with residents will happen early in 2009 and residents are invited to attend and have their say on the proposals.

Ends (Issued 9th December 2008)

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