

Eden Housing Association exhibition is part of £200m investment for West Carlisle

Eden Housing Association was one of only six exhibitors invited to a West Carlisle Community event held at Morton School, Carlisle. Designed to engage with the local community, the “Your future under construction” event gave local people a chance to view plans and voice their thoughts on what is happening in West Carlisle.



As well as the Eden Housing Association “Extra Care Housing Development scheme” which will cost in excess of £9m, exhibits also included the £176m Carlisle North Development Route - the long awaited Carlisle by-pass.

The two day event on Friday and Saturday was organised by Jane Humphries, Neighbourhood Development Officer for Cumbria County Council and was opened by John Blake and Simon Lakeland - two of the Carlisle United youth team players who have just been awarded professional contracts. It attracted 550 pupils on Friday and over 200 community and local visitors on the Saturday.

The team from Eden Housing Association used the opportunity to create greater understanding of what Extra Care Housing in Carlisle will provide and let people see first hand how the project is shaping up.

John Clasper, Director of Operations for the Association said “It was great to be part of an exhibition that included significant schemes that make up part of the £200m investment in west Carlisle. It was about talking with the local community to promote and communicate projects around accessibility; in terms of getting in and out of Carlisle and also ‘access’ to local and long-term housing and community support services. We are also delighted that the event helped to raise the profile of Eden Housing Association in the Carlisle area.

Friday was a good opportunity to work with young people, engaging with students from the Richard Rose Morton Academy on the needs of their community, how young people interact with older people in their own area and for the students to learn more about the eco friendly development that we are creating.

On Saturday we saw a wide range of local people interested in the investment being made in their community as well as those who want to benefit from the extra care facilities we are building. Many people expressed an interest in our properties, aimed primarily at those aged 55+ and were pleased that the scheme includes a mix of affordable homes for rent, part ownership and full ownership.”

Many local residents were aware of the extra care development, especially now work on site has begun, but there were some who knew little and they learned a lot more. It will be spring 2011 before the 60 homes are completed - creating a more independent future for residents of the scheme. Organiser Jane Humphries said “I am very pleased to see how much effort exhibitors like Eden Housing Association have made. Feedback suggests everyone learned something and felt their views were taken into account which was our main purpose.”

Pictures: John Clasper & Jennifer Campbell with Carlisle United players John Blake and Simon Lakeland. Mr & Mrs Irwin look at extra care housing plans with Helen Smith.