

PRESS RELEASE

Date: 31st March 2015

Contractors hand over extra care building to Eden Housing Association

Final milestones for the eagerly anticipated new extra care scheme in Kirkby Stephen are in sight. The next landmark occasion occurred last Friday (20th March); when the Mill Gardens building was officially handed over to Eden Housing Association.

Building contractor Thomas Armstrong (Construction) Ltd handed over the building which will provide 19 extra care apartments as well as offices, a treatment room, catering facilities and communal lounges. They are continuing to complete the outside areas including landscaping and car park facilities ahead of the first residents moving in later in April.

For Thomas Armstrong Site Manager Ralph Kennerley, this is a poignant occasion – as he is set to retire once the final touches to the scheme are completed. Kevan Guest, Assistant Director (Asset Management) for Eden Housing Association said “Led by Ralph, the team from Thomas Armstrong has worked hard to bring this project to fruition. Thomas Armstrong and Quantity Surveyors Donleys were both contracted on our first Extra Care development in Carlisle and we were delighted with those results. They have done another excellent job again at Mill Gardens. There’s always a team effort needed to bring an idea to life, in Kirkby Stephen we also worked with Croft Goode Architects. We think the finished result has a lot to offer its new residents and are excited to turning the development into homes and a community.”

Now the building is handed over and the decorators, carpet fitters, joiners and plumbers have moved out of the apartments, the scheme is coming to life. There is a real sense of space and light in the communal lounge and conservatory. The corridors on each floor are painted a different colour and have co-ordinated carpets – they were created to make it easier to find the way around the scheme and is very helpful for anyone who has dementia.

Carolyn Greenhalgh, EHA Assistant Director (Housing) said “The apartments are well thought out with plenty of space. Heather Tarney from Eden Country Care was impressed with the layout of the wet rooms which have great facilities. It’s this attention to detail that will really benefit residents, helping them stay independent in their own homes.”

Eden Housing Association is preparing to stage the move for new residents. Post Easter they are conducting training and testing before beginning a phased move for residents which is set for the middle of April.

At least three of these residents are over ninety which goes to highlight how important it is to have the right facilities. A further eight apartments have been offered, with Adult Social Care looking at potential residents with a care need for the remaining three homes.

The whole scheme cost £3.1 million, with £519,860 funded by the HCA (Homes and Communities Agency) and £250,00 funded by Cumbria County Council to Cumbria County Council towards the cost of making the scheme 'extra care'; they will also be covering the costs of the on-site care team.

Anyone interested in the apartments should contact Heidi Ware Housing Team Leader on 01768 861419.

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Picture: Ross Cowperthwaite, Eden Housing Association Capital Investment Officer shakes the hand of Thomas Armstrong Site Manager Ralph Kennerley as he takes control over the Mill Gardens building. Behind: James Kelley from Croft Goode Architects, Mike Storey QS Donleys, Stuart Bainbridge Thomas Armstrong Contracts Manager

Heather Tarney ECC and Carolyn Greenhalgh EHA inspect the new wet rooms in an apartment.



For more information about this release or for more images, contact Tracey Errington on 07799 640 290 or email tracey@marketsense.net