



Press Release

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Green Space springs into life

CHP, one of the largest developing housing associations in Essex, recently celebrated the launch of its first zero carbon homes development with a time capsule burial ceremony.

Over 25 children from Newlands Spring Primary School helped local councillors, Simon Burns MP and CHP Chairman Martin Dean bury a time capsule filled with present day items - and placed a plaque commemorating the event - to launch the *Green Space* development in Mendip Road, Chelmsford.

Built in partnership with McCann Homes, the *Green Space* development - due for completion in May 2010 - features six family properties and four apartments, following the regeneration of a former CHP garage site.

Acting as a pilot project for future developments, by allowing the company to assess renewable energy technologies, the *Green Space* design is the first CHP scheme to be awarded a level six rating under the Communities and Local Governments' *Code for Sustainable Homes**.

Designed to lower energy costs for residents, the *Green Space* development utilises a number of environmental technologies, such as biomass heating systems, roof mounted photovoltaic cells, rainwater harvesting and grey water recycling systems, and thermal insulation.

Simon Burns, Conservative MP for Chelmsford West, said: "It is great to see CHP leading the way with such an imaginative scheme; especially at a time when the environment is of such importance."

Martin Dean, CHP Chairman, added: "*Green Space* is an impressive achievement which would not have been possible were it not for our partners, Flagship Housing Group, the local authority and the Homes and Communities Agency. It is fantastic that the site meets the requirements to achieve a code six level score and that it is designed to be sustainable due to the renewable technologies which have been installed."

Irene Stephenson, a Newlands Spring Primary School teacher, added: "The children had a great day and lots of fun thinking of items to put in the time capsule. They also thoroughly enjoyed their guided tour of the development which they found very interesting and informative."

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Editors Notes:

Based in the county town of Chelmsford, Chelmer Housing Partnership (CHP) is a non-profit housing association in Essex. It is one of about 2,000 housing associations in the UK, who provide affordable properties to rent and buy.

***Code for Sustainable Homes**

The Communities and Local Governments' *Code for Sustainable Homes* – which was introduced in May 2009 – measures the sustainability of a new home against nine categories of sustainable design and rates the whole home as a 'complete package'.

The Code uses a one to six rating system to communicate the overall sustainability performance of a new home and sets minimum standards for energy and water use at each level. The Code supports the Government target that all new homes will be zero carbon from 2016.

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