

## **PRESS INFORMATION**

06th March 2010

### **New homes in Stratford finish on a high**

As the multi-million pound transformation of a derelict industrial site into new homes nears completion, some of the construction and property industry's biggest names are gathering together to see the result.

One Housing Group's £30m affordable housing development, which is being created by Wates Living Space on the site of an old warehouse on Stratford High Street, is being visited by, amongst others, Mick Sweeney, Chief Executive of One Housing Group, Jonny Wates, Wates Family Director and Paul Drechsler, Chairman & Chief Executive of construction company Wates Group.

Guests will be travelling to the top of the new development to trowl the last concrete section of roof as part of the topping out ceremony, a tradition to mark the completion of the structure of a building.

Once fully complete in December 2010, the development will provide 113 new homes, including 29 for affordable rent, 56 for private sale and 28 units available on a shared ownership basis. The development also features ground floor and basement commercial units and an underground car park. Residents will benefit from a range of community and environmental features including children's play areas, grass roofs, eco-gardens and bird and bat nesting boxes to encourage wildlife in the area.

Lawrence Baxter Project Manager from Wates Living Space said: "Although the development isn't finished yet, the difference from when we arrived on the site back in May 2008 is incredible.

"We're proud to show off the work we've been doing, not just in terms of bricks and mortar but in the work we've done with the local community, creating new green spaces or improving old ones and making Newham a better place to live in.

“We look forward to seeing the reaction from the public when the development is finally unveiled to the public this December.”

Mick Sweeney, Chief Executive of One Housing Group said, “We are delighted to lay the final bricks of this scheme, which forms part of the area’s wider regeneration.

“Once complete it will not only help to meet the urgent housing need in the borough but will also bring benefit to the area as a whole by encouraging a balanced, sustainable community.”

### **Event Schedule**

30<sup>th</sup> April 2010

11.00 – Guests arrive on site, are split into small groups and will be escorted onto tower roof via site Hoist

12.00 - Guests gather on the tower roof for the topping out ceremony which will include:

- Speeches by Mick Sweeney, CEO of One Housing Group and Jonny Wates Family Director
- Presentation of an engraved silver trowel to One Housing
- All guests sign the parapet under the capping so that signatures will remain for the life of the building
- Photocall from roof showing views of the site, aquatic centre and main Olympic stadium.

13.00 - Guests return from site to project offices where refreshments will be served

14.30 - Finish

To attend the topping out ceremony please contact Emma Radcliffe on [emma.radcliffe@beattiegroup.com](mailto:emma.radcliffe@beattiegroup.com) or call 07730 415 022.

**ENDS**

For further information about Wates Living Space please contact Emma Radcliffe at Beattie Communications on 0161 216 4273. For more information about One Housing Group please contact Fiona Crook, Communication and Marketing Officer on 020 7428 4107 or email

## **Editors Notes**

Wates is one of the UK's largest family-owned construction services and development companies. Established in 1897, it remains privately owned by the Wates Family. Wates employs over 2000 people and had a turnover of £945 million in 2009

Part of the family owned Wates Group, Wates Living Space is one of the UK's leading affordable housing contractors, working with RSLs and ALMOs we build or refurbish in the region of 20,000 homes for residents each year through the New Build and decent homes programme.

Wates Living Space was awarded Contractor of the Year at the Housing Excellence Awards and Sustainable Contractor of the Year at the Inside Housing Sustainable Housing Awards [www.wates.co.uk](http://www.wates.co.uk)

**One Housing Group** currently manages over 12,000 homes in 26 local authorities across London and adjacent counties, with over 2,700 homes in the development pipeline. These include affordable rented homes, shared ownership schemes, intermediate rent homes for key workers, Extra Care, supported housing and homes for outright sale.

Community Housing Association, Island Homes and Toynbee Housing Association joined to form One Housing Group in September 2007.