



## **Planning permission granted for 'Trees,' the first 100% affordable extra care scheme in Highgate**

**28 July 2008:** Hill Homes, working in conjunction with One Housing Group and PRP, are delighted to announce that planning permission has been granted for what will be the first 100% affordable extra care scheme in the Highgate area. The development is expected to start on site in October, with completion scheduled for October 2010.

The development, known as Trees, takes its name from the many mature and protected trees on the site. Located within the Highgate Conservation area, the scheme has been designed to preserve and enhance the surrounding environment and landscape. It will provide 40 one and two bedroom extra care apartments as well as a range of communal facilities for residents, including an activity room, lounge spaces, café, hairdressing salon, therapy room and landscaped gardens.

Trees has been designed to appeal to the older generation and create an environment where they would actively choose to live. When complete the development will offer modern, stylish housing in a convenient and accessible location that allows and encourages residents to play an active part in the community.

Designed to maximise communal space and avoid the look and feel of institutional care, the key focus for the development will be the beautifully landscaped gardens. As with all extra care schemes, Trees has been designed to allow older people to continue living independently whilst being equipped to provide the care and support that they need over time. As such the development will utilise assistive technology, including telecare and smart homes, to promote independence and reduce social exclusion, whilst also providing a safe and secure environment for residents.

Joe Scullion, chief executive of Hill Homes, said: "Hill Homes are delighted to have received planning permission for this much needed extra care scheme which will allow us to continue to provide high quality affordable homes and care for older people in the Highgate area, an initiative which began on D-Day 1944. We look forward to working closely with our development partners and London Borough of Haringey to make this development a great success and a centre of excellence."



Kevin Beirne, Director of Housing Care and Support at One Housing Group, added: “Older people have a complex range of needs and aspirations and our challenge has been to design a scheme that best fits their requirements. We are delighted to be working on the Trees development, which we believe will bring real benefits to older people.”

Mark Walker from PRP, who designed the scheme commented: “Trees has been designed with energy efficiency and environmental sustainability in mind, aiming to exceed minimum standards where possible. The development will feature Ground Source Heat Pumps and more than 10% of its energy needs will be produced on site. The building will also be super-insulated to reduce heat and energy loss. All single storey units will feature sedum roofs, offering sustainable benefits as well as helping them to become visually integrated within the surrounding landscape.”

- ENDS -

#### **Notes to editors**

High res images are available upon request.

**For further information please contact Fiona Crook at One Housing Group on telephone: 020 7428 4107 or email: [fcrook@onehousinggroup.co.uk](mailto:fcrook@onehousinggroup.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, and homes for private sale. All new schemes look at the need for balanced communities and therefore include a mixture of tenures and uses.

One Support is the group’s housing care and support arm. With a reputation for providing high quality modern supported housing and services. One Support has been the biggest developer of supported housing in London for the last 5 years.

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

Visit [www.onehousinggroup.co.uk](http://www.onehousinggroup.co.uk) for further information.

PRP ([www.prparchitects.co.uk](http://www.prparchitects.co.uk)) is one of Britain's leading architectural practices with over 40 years' experience in providing design and architecture to the private and public sectors. The largest housing practice in the country, PRP also designs care homes, schools, health facilities, leisure complexes, mixed use and commercial buildings. The company employs over 360 staff across a wide range of disciplines and is an expert in delivering regeneration solutions. In 1996, PRP launched its specialist project management arm, PRP Project Services, to help clients navigate the design, financing, maintenance and management issues required in major regeneration projects. PRP offices are based in London, Surrey, Milton Keynes and Manchester.