



Press release

For immediate release

16 September 2008

Wates staff to spend a day revitalising local residents' communal gardens

Each year, Wates staff spend a day giving something back to the communities in which they work. This year, on 19 September, Wates staff will spend the day re-landscaping and revitalising the communal garden areas at Peter Heathfield House, a mixed tenure housing development owned and managed by One Housing Group.

Wates has been selected by One Housing Group to construct a new 113 unit mixed tenure development in Stratford High Street, located close to Stratford's transport hub and amenities. As a result of this partnership, Wates asked One Housing Group's Community Investment team to help them organise their community day. A number of One Housing Group staff will also be taking part in the initiative.

The day will be spent weeding, tidying and planting bulbs and flowers to revitalise the two communal areas at Peter Heathfield House, transforming them into attractive, pleasant spaces where residents would choose to spend time. Peter Heathfield House comprises 76 flats, whose residents will all reap the benefits of the work.

Several residents have expressed an interest in getting involved in maintaining the garden areas at the property following the work undertaken by Wates. One Housing Group staff will work with residents to set up a gardening club that will help to help maintain and enhance the communal areas once the initial work is complete.

In previous years Wates has undertaken a range of projects to help local communities, such as refurbishing a halfway house for homeless people and making improvements to a day nursery for refugee families.

Lawrence Baxter at Wates said: "Following the start of our first project with One Housing Group in Stratford, we are delighted to be organising our Community Day project in conjunction with OHG. We are excited about the Peter Heathfield House project as it provides the opportunity to contribute to the local area in which we work, which is at the heart of all our Community Day projects. We hope that the project will benefit both residents and the local community and are pleased that a number of residents have shown an interest in contributing to the day's activities as well as setting up a gardening club to maintain and enhance the communal area in the future once the initial work is complete."

Peter Higgins, Assistant Director of Community Regeneration at One Housing Group added: "We are delighted to work with Wates to help co-ordinate their community day which will revitalise and transform the communal areas at Peter Heathfield House. It will make a huge difference to residents and the local community, providing them with pleasant, attractive spaces to spend time. With residents keen to maintain the communal area after Wates' initial work, the positive impact and benefits of the project will last for years to come."

For more information visit

www.wates.co.uk or www.onehousinggroup.co.uk

Ends

For further information please contact Fiona Crook at One Housing Group on telephone: 020 7428 4107 or email: fcrook@onehousinggroup.co.uk

Notes to Editors

Wates is one of the UK's largest construction services and development companies. Established in 1897, it remains privately owned by Wates Family Holdings. Wates employs more than 2,200 people and had a turnover of £949 million in 2007.

The company works across a range of sectors, including education, public sector frameworks, affordable housing, retail fit out and refurbishment, office interiors, land development and commercial buildings.

Safety is a top priority within Wates Group, and our excellent safety record has resulted in RoSPA Gold Awards for Occupational Safety and the British Safety Council Awards for the past five years.

One Housing Group currently manages over 12,000 homes in 25 local authorities across London and the Home Counties, with over 2,700 homes in the development pipeline. These include shared ownership schemes; intermediate rent homes for key workers, affordable rented homes and homes for outright sale. All new schemes look at the need for balanced communities and therefore include a mixture of tenures and uses.

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