



**Press release**

**For immediate release**

**15 September 2009**

**Wates Construction spend day helping local residents improve the green spaces around their homes**

Following the success of last year's community day, Wates and One Housing Group (OHG) are once again joining forces to revitalise the green spaces at two more developments in Newham. This year, on 18 September, Wates and OHG staff will spend the day transforming the communal garden areas at London Plane and Almond House, two schemes located on Teasel Way in West Ham that are both owned and managed by One Housing Group.

The day will be spent weeding, tidying and revitalising the two communal areas at London Plane and Almond House, transforming them into attractive, pleasant spaces where residents would choose to spend time. The two blocks comprise of 22 flats, whose residents will all reap the benefits of the work. The work will also help to develop the green potential of both garden areas.

Each year, Wates staff spend a day giving something back to the communities in which they work. In previous years they have undertaken a range of projects help local communities, such as refurbishing a halfway house for homeless people and making improvements to a day nursery for refugee families.

Laurence Baxter, Project Manager at Wates Stratford said: "Our team at Wates Stratford are delighted that One Housing Group's Community Investment Team are once again assisting us in organising our community day."

"At Wates we feel it is important to give something back to the communities in which

we work and hope that projects such as our community days help to do so. We hope that many of the residents at Teasel Way will join us and take part in the gardening improvement project we have organised for the 18<sup>th</sup> September. Our team really enjoyed last year's community day and are looking forward to another fun packed day this year."

Michelle Mulcare, Community Investment Manager at One Housing Group added:

"We are delighted to work with Wates again this year to help co-ordinate their community day. Following the success of last year's project we are very much looking forward to this year's event."

"We are confident that the project will provide pleasant, attractive outdoor spaces for residents at London Plane and Almond House to enjoy for years to come."

## **Ends**

## **Notes to Editors**

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 more than 2,200 people and had a turnover of £1,009 million in 2008.

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

Wates has three areas of Corporate Responsibility focus: to reduce the impact of CO2 emissions from our activities; Target Zero of eliminating all non-hazardous waste to landfill by 2010; and boosting skills and employability in areas of most need. Wates was awarded Silver status in the Business in the Community Responsible Business index in 2008.

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

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