

PRESS RELEASE

Soldier commemorated by Acis when opening new homes

Lincolnshire based housing association Acis Group paid tribute a British soldier killed in Afghanistan when officially opening a new homes development in Grimsby.

Acis, who own and manage over 5,200 homes across Lincolnshire, Nottinghamshire and South Yorkshire, declared the Robert Pearson Mews development officially open on 11 October in front of residents, councillors, members of the local authority, partners and employees. Madam Mayor of Grimsby, Councillor Susan Pickett, was also in attendance. However, it was the presence of the family of the late Robert Pearson, whom the new road is named after, that made the event a special one.

Robert Pearson was a British soldier serving in the Queen's Royal Lancers regiment. He was posted to Afghanistan but regrettably he was killed in April 2008. Robert, from Grimsby, enlisted for the Army in 2006 and went on to train as a combat driver. After being deployed to Afghanistan in January 2008, Robert was part of the Armoured Support Company Royal Marines that was providing security to a resupply convoy returning to Camp Bastion. It was then when the vehicle he was driving hit a suspected mine and Robert was killed.

Robert received glowing tributes from a host of colleagues, including his Commanding Officer, Company Commander, Squadron Leader and fellow soldiers.

John Cawdell, Acis board member, said:

“The event was about more than just bricks and mortar. It was about paying tribute to a brave soldier who tragically had his life taken away. We at Acis are immensely proud to have our homes linked to a hero. I'm sure that the memory of Robert will live on through his family and friends, and I hope that this road will act as a mark of respect to Robert and be a symbol of his life.”

As a tribute to Robert, his family wrote to the council and suggested that a road be named in his honour. The street was put forward to Robert's family and subsequently it was named Robert Pearson Mews. Robert's family were invited to attend the opening event by Acis, and his sister, nephew, auntie, uncle and cousin were present to help cut the ribbon and officially open the development.

Robert's auntie, Linda O'Sullivan, said:

"We are very grateful to Acis for organising all this. We were delighted to be invited and are so pleased that Robert is being remembered in this way. It shows that they really do care."

The Acis development has created 15 much needed affordable homes, which represents a multimillion pound investment that was part funded by a Homes and Communities Agency grant. The project was constructed just off Ladysmith Road. It features a mix of two and three bedroom houses, available for rent and rent to own, where customers can rent now and buy later. The properties are part of the Clee Fields Court development, which contains a total of 68 homes, constructed by Property developer Stamford Homes.

Chief Executive of Acis, Valerie Waby, added:

"It is a proud day for the organisation to officially open this development. Having Robert's family here with us makes it even more of a special occasion and we're delighted they could join us. Acis prides itself in putting people first and providing better places for people to live and we feel Robert Pearson Mews meets this criteria. These new homes mean that we are able to help meet the growing demand for high quality affordable homes in this area."

Acis will be further establishing a presence in North East Lincolnshire with the development of 33 new properties on Frederick Street in Grimsby, which are due for completion in 2012.