



Acis officially opens latest new homes development

Lincolnshire based housing association Acis Group officially opened their latest new homes development in the town of Gainsborough in late January.

Acis, who own and manage over 5,000 homes across Lincolnshire, Nottinghamshire and South Yorkshire, declared their Richardson Rise development officially open on 28 January in front of customers, local dignitaries, special guests, partners and employees. Guest of honour Professor Mary Stuart, Vice Chancellor of the University of Lincoln, was on hand to cut the ribbon outside one of the new homes and addressed the assembled gathering together with Acis Chairman Roger Buttery.

The £7.5million scheme has created more than 70 much needed affordable homes thanks to £3million of funding from the Homes and Communities Agency and a further £4.5million of investment from Acis themselves. Acis appointed Lincolnshire-based construction group Lindum to carry out the work, which began in February 2009 and was built on land belonging to Acis at Park Springs.

This first phase of the project saw 37 new homes handed over, featuring a mix of two and three bedroom bungalows, two, three and four bedroom houses, and two bedroom flats. Following the completion of the second phase, a total of 74 new homes were built for rent, shared ownership and intermediate market rent, where customers can rent now and buy later.

Chief Executive of Acis, Valerie Waby, said:

“Officially opening this multimillion pound development is a proud day for the organisation. The scheme represents our commitment to the residents of Gainsborough and West Lindsey and these new homes have enabled us to help meet the growing demand for high quality affordable homes in this area.”

The opening of the scheme was also marked by the attendance of Gainsborough resident Frederick Richardson. Mr Richardson, or Fred as he is known, is a well known figure in the town and had the honour of having the development named after

him following a recommendation to West Lindsey District Council. It was Mr Richardson's work with the British Legion that was recognised foremost. After becoming a member in the mid-1940s, Mr Richardson has been directly involved in poppy collections for the past 40 years. He has also completed 35 years as Branch Chairman and Mr Richardson has played a key role in keeping the Gainsborough branch of the Royal British Legion going for three decades.

It was a double celebration as Mr Richardson celebrated his 90th birthday just a couple of days after the event. Mr Richardson was presented with a crystal decanter by Acis to commemorate the scheme opening, as well as a birthday card and cake.

Roger Buttery, Chairman of Acis, said:

“Mr Richardson richly deserves this recognition and I'm delighted he was present to mark this occasion with us. Acis prides itself in putting people first and providing better places for people to live and I believe Richardson Rise meets this criteria. I know I speak for everyone who has been involved in this development when I say what a success it has been. The opening event is another milestone in the company's history and one I am extremely proud to be part of.”

The event was rounded off with a reception at the Park Springs Community Centre.