



PRESS RELEASE

Date Issued: Monday 15th October 2007

Local MP opens affordable housing scheme in Norwich

Norwich-based Cotman Housing Association has proudly opened a new development of affordable houses, utilizing a largely derelict site of garages.

Officially opened on Friday 12th October by Dr Ian Gibson, MP for Norwich North, Thornfield Way has been developed by Icen Homes on behalf of Cotman Housing Association at a cost of around £3.5 million. Thornfield Way, off Paine Road in Heartsease, Norwich, comprises 27 homes, with 6 two-bedroom bungalows, 13 two-bedroom houses and 8 three-bedroom houses. All properties will be let at affordable rents and will be solely available to applicants on the Norwich Housing Register.

Local councillors and members of the Housing industry gathered to mark the opening of the scheme. Dr Gibson planted a tree to officially open the site, and spoke on how important it was for there to be more affordable housing available in the area.

The site has been developed as part of the Greater Norwich Housing Development Partnership, which consists of three local authorities and four housing associations. The GNHDP was set up to enable a coordinated approach to providing affordable housing, and the aim of the Partnership is to make best use of available funding and bring forward suitable sites for development.

Thornfield Way is an example of one of the many sites which had been identified by the Partnership as being on land which was derelict or in need of re-generation. The site of the development was originally developed with Council owned garages for renting to tenants in the 1960s, and the site has been used in this way ever since, although in recent years the garages have been largely redundant.

With 18 of the 27 properties having been let to existing long-term tenants of Norwich City Council, the new scheme has assisted people waiting for urgent transfers because of health reasons or due to over-crowding.

Cotman Housing Association's Chief Executive, Vivien Farrow, said "Cotman Housing is very pleased to create more affordable housing in the Norwich area and, having worked in partnership over the development and letting of these properties with Norwich City Council, we are confident that many more homes have now been freed up for those on the waiting list. The new properties integrate well within the existing community at Heartsease, and we were delighted that Dr Gibson officially opened the scheme".

For more information about the work of Cotman Housing, log on to **www.cotman-housing.org.uk** or telephone **01603 612927**.

ENDS

Notes to editor:

Photo caption: Dr Ian Gibson, MP for Norwich North, officially plants a tree to mark the opening of Thornfield Way, alongside Councillor Alan Waters, Cotman Chief Executive Vivien Farrow, Chairman Sarah Dixon, Development Director Stuart Thomas, and Lovell Regional Manager Simon Medler.

For more information, please contact Ben Veal, Information and PR Officer at Cotman Housing Association, on 01603 883725 or email ben.veal@cotman-housing.org.uk.