

Wentworth Gardens, Norwich

Update Report for AGM from Martin Davidson – Persimmon Homes

Please accept my apologies for not being able to join you at this AGM to present an update report, but at the time of the meeting I will be somewhere over Europe returning from a much deserved holiday.

Progress at Wentworth Gardens has taken us all by surprise in terms of the strength of demand for these properties and thereby the rate of sale, and building works. Compared to our initial expectancy of being on site for potentially 3+ years we now envisage being completed in effectively half that time, with construction work currently due to finish in February of next year.

Whilst I believe we have generally kept to our undertakings related to developing the site, this rate of build has undoubtedly caused issues. Early site starts, delivery drivers ignoring instructions or arriving early, boundary issues and inappropriate parking have also been experienced but hopefully these have been addressed in an acceptable manner whether resolved on site or by reference to myself. We did for a three week period also work on Sundays at the end of June contrary to our indicated intent however as stressed in earlier meetings there were no actual planning restrictions in this regard and specific pressures dictated this necessity. As we approach the end of the site space for car parking/ storage has come under increasing pressure however we hope to manage this with minimal, if any, further problems.

The one area related to which I sadly have little to add, despite our continuous and best efforts, relates to outstanding decisions by Norwich City Council allied to a number of matters, but particularly in terms of works to and future maintenance of the tree belts along the northern and eastern boundaries (and to a lesser extent the southern boundary). I have sought replies to incorporate within this report but to date have received no reply. We note and accept our ongoing responsibility to resolve these matters which will clearly continue even if we have completed development works on site before a final decision is made. Whilst not ideal there is little else I can actually do.

Finally and given the anticipated finish to this development, may I take this opportunity to thank everyone that has been either involved or affected by this scheme for their patience and general cooperation. Particular thanks, hopefully without offending others that are not mentioned must go to Gerald Cooke for his tireless efforts in providing us with a local link in the exchange of information and facilitating a platform for us to engage directly with the local community, to PCSO 8250 Julie Sayer for her role in both monitoring the scheme and forging community involvement with the Primary School and finally to Councillor Judith Lubbock for her efforts to date, and still required, in concluding matters with the City Council.