

21st May 2010

## NEWS RELEASE

A member of  
Westward  
Housing Group

Westcountry  
Housing  
provides 4,500  
good quality  
affordable  
homes in the  
south west

- ❖ Affordable
- ❖ High quality
- ❖ Rented
- ❖ Low cost  
ownership

Housing advice  
and services  
provider

*“Your home  
should be  
somewhere  
you want to  
be”*

## **New homes for local people start to go up in Hartland**

**\* Photo opportunity \***

**3pm prompt, Monday 24th May 2010**

**Start on site photo: Teaky Park, Hartland Cross, Hartland**

Westcountry Housing's latest affordable housing scheme is to provide local people in desperate need of housing with 18 properties including 14 which will be available for rent through Devon Home Choice, and also 4 part-rent part-buy affordable home ownership properties.

The rented houses will include six two-bed homes, five three-bed homes, two one-bed bungalows and one four-bed home. The part-rent part-buy properties will be two two-bed homes and two three-bed homes.

The sloping features on the homes' pitched roofs have been designed by Trewin Design Partnership to mirror the local trees which have been shaped by the prevailing onshore winds. The properties will also feature Daikin air source heat pumps to help save heating costs for residents and as a commitment to the environment.

The Homes and Communities Agency allocated Social Housing Grant funding of £1,018,000 towards the cost of providing the homes.

Local authorities have funded £182,000 towards the project, with £160,000 of that coming from Devon County Council (£113,000) and Torridge District Council (£47,000) share of council tax raised on second homes. Torridge District Council also funded an additional £22,000 from their capital budget for affordable housing.

The new homes are being built on the site of a field owned by local people, Mr and Mrs King, and the Teaky Park site will probably be renamed. The land was bought by Westcountry early this year.

Pearce Construction (Barnstaple) have tendered for and won the contract to build the homes, at a cost of £1,867,551. Total scheme cost is in excess of £2.5 million.

The homes have a planned completion date of April 2011. Those interested in sales can see marketing materials towards the end of this year.

Managing Director of Tarka Housing, Nigel Barnard, said: "I am delighted that as a housing provider we can help to counter the critical shortage of affordable

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homes to rent and buy in rural areas such as Hartland.

This is another great opportunity where Westward Housing Group has benefitted from Westcountry Housing's ability to fund and build homes, whilst Tarka Housing is in a position to manage them as a truly local housing association."

Cllr Philip R. Collins, Lead on Affordable Housing at Torrridge District Council, said: "It's fantastic to see the first sod dug on this project to secure homes for local families, it symbolises the commitment and involvement of the community that is Hartland. I look forward to seeing many more similar high quality developments in the near future throughout Torrridge. A really big thank you to everyone that has been involved along the way."

Cabinet Member, Cllr John Clatworthy, of Devon County Council, said :

**Notes to editors:**

As a social landlord, Westcountry Housing strives to work in partnership with local authorities to meet the needs of local people in the greatest need of housing. Westcountry Housing is a member of Westward Housing Group which provides more than 6,500 affordable, high quality homes and housing related services across Cornwall and Devon. Visit: [www.westcountryha.org.uk](http://www.westcountryha.org.uk)

*Please be aware that Monday is purely to take a photograph, not an event as such and so will be very brief.*

**Those attending:**

Jill Gregg (Westward Housing Group director of investment and procurement), Helen Holgate (Westward Housing Group new business manager), Nigel Barnard (Tarka Housing managing director), Cllr Alison Boyle (DCC), Cllr Brian Redwood (TDC), Cllr Adam Symons, Cllr Robert Parsons (Hartland), Paul Knox (Pearce Construction Barnstaple), Diarmad Perry (employer's agent) and Matt Payne (Trewin Design).