



## Sherlock's on the case!

There's a brand new sleuth in Northamptonshire. We launched our new mascot, Sherlock Homes, to investigate the issues we're dealing with in our communities and the difference we're making to local people. His first case was in Braunston when he joined a site meeting and discovered how we're developing new homes to meet the demand for more local affordable housing. Watch out for him out and about!

## Report reveals housing crisis

The National Housing Federation's East Midlands Home Truths 2016/17 report shows that local people are facing a housing crisis, with a shortfall of 29,000 affordable homes across the region. It's revealed that in Northamptonshire, the gap between house prices and salaries is higher than the East Midlands average, underlining the urgent need for more affordable housing.

## Leslie returns to her roots

Thanks to our support, Leslie Thorburn has gained a new lease of life – and returned to her roots. Leslie suffers from osteoarthritis and was becoming trapped upstairs due to her limited mobility. We offered Leslie and her husband a bungalow in Clipston, where Leslie grew up, and they says "it's absolutely perfect".

## Right to buy

To ensure any Right to Buy scheme is fully tested, the Government has proposed a 'regional pilot', but, as yet, the location hasn't been confirmed. There's also not been any confirmation of the qualifying criteria that tenants must meet to be eligible for any scheme. We are continuing to keep tenants and other stakeholders informed, and will provide details of our policy position when the formal scheme is launched.

## Universal Credit

Universal Credit has now been rolled out in the Daventry District area. As changes are introduced, such as the latest news regarding claimants with three or more children, we're updating residents through social media and our tenant newsletter.



## New developments in the pipeline:

This year we are looking to develop much needed affordable homes in a range of villages across Northamptonshire, these include:

### BRAUNSTON

Phase 3 of the development is set to be completed in June, bringing an additional 10 properties for affordable rent and two for shared ownership to the village. The new homes will be allocated in May.

### YARWELL

Full planning permission has just been received and work on the development of five homes for affordable rent and four for shared ownership, will begin imminently.

### LITTLE ADDINGTON

Funding has been secured through the HCA's Shared Ownership & Affordable Homes Programme for our first development in the village. A planning application has been submitted for two homes for rent and four for shared ownership.

### BRIGSTOCK

We're proposing plans for one home for affordable rent and five for shared ownership and will be submitting a planning application later in the year.

### WALGRAVE

A planning application has been submitted for Phase 2, comprising five homes for affordable rent and two for shared ownership, along with some for Local Market sale.