



Owl and Pussycat makes way for new affordable homes

Cosmopolitan Housing Association has started work this week on its new housing scheme in Egerton, Skelmersdale, the association's first development in the area.

Formerly home to a derelict public house, The Owl & Pussycat, which had lain empty since 2009, the site will soon offer nine much needed 3-bedroom homes for affordable rent, with completion of the development due in October 2011.

The properties on Egerton Road have achieved Code 4 for Sustainable Homes, and will feature a prefabricated timber frame; highly insulated walls, floors and roof; roof mounted sunpipes and photo-voltaic panels; water butts and rainwater harvesting and wildflower gardens.

The scheme costs of approximately £1m are supported by grant funding from the Homes & Communities Agency, with the remainder of the costs being met by Cosmopolitan.

Architects Denovo Design who are working with Cosmopolitan on the development, have enlisted the help of pupils from Hillside Community Primary School which is adjacent to the site.

Years 3 and 6 were given the opportunity to have an input into the garden and building design, in an effort to create public awareness to the project. Due to the enthusiastic response from the pupils they are now planning a health and safety project around the build of the development as it progresses. The contractor for the scheme is BLP Egerton Regeneration Limited of Liverpool.

Kristene Karaski, Regeneration Officer with Cosmopolitan, said: “We are very excited about this development, particularly with it being our first in the Skelmersdale area. There is a significant waiting list in this area for housing and these properties will go towards helping to ease that.

“It’s fantastic to see the local school and pupils taking such an interest in the design and building process too and we’re looking forward to more input from them over the coming months”.