



## **PRESS RELEASE**

**19 JULY 2007**

### **BIRD'S EYE VIEW FOR SCHOOLCHILDREN**

Portsmouth schoolchildren were given a rare bird's eye view of the city thanks to the kindness of a local housing association and its contractors.

Children from years two and six from St George's Beneficial C of E Primary School, were taken up the Spinnaker Tower courtesy of Atlantic Housing Ltd, and Portsmouth builders PMC Construction & Development Ltd.

Project Manager for Atlantic Housing, John Crapper, said: "Often children miss out on what's on their doorstep. We wanted to give the local children an opportunity to see the wonderful landmark on their doorstep."

Managing Director, of PMC Construction & Development Ltd, Pat McGee said: "We build homes for local people and they are very important to us. In the little way we can, we try to give something back to the community. The whole idea is to get people involved in the neighbourhood."

Children as young as six-years-old, enjoyed the stunning panoramic views of the city, as never seen before.

Chloe, aged six-years-old said: "When you look out of the windows in the tower it's really good. You can see stuff that you can't see when you are on the ground."

April Fuller, aged 11-years-old, said: "It's been really exciting and fun. Before I came on this trip, I was scared of heights but I'm not anymore."

Teachers and parent-helpers agreed that the trip had been a successful learning experience for the children.

Year six teacher, Tim Gadd, said: "It's a lovely opportunity for the children. I don't think many of them have been to the Tower before."

Helper & grandmother, Angel, 61, from Portsea, said: "You have a lot of parents on income support and the kids have been given a chance they would not have had otherwise. The kids love it and it gives them a little break from school too."

Learning Mentor, Tracey Richards, said: "It's been exciting for the children to identify what the different sights are and where their school is located from such a great height."

George Thornton, aged 7-years-old, seemed to agree. He said: "I've never been up here before; the glass floor is really scary if you are looking down. It's been really good fun coming up here, I can't believe we are so high."

The visit to the Tower is the second outing organised with the local school by PMC Construction & Development Ltd, and Atlantic Housing Ltd. Schoolchildren were also taken to the Queen's Street regeneration site in early July for a lesson in site safety.

**ENDS**

**For further information, please contact:**

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### **FURTHER INFORMATION**

Atlantic Housing started work on the regeneration scheme in Queen Street, Portsmouth, in April 2007.

The 39 new apartments will provide a mix of shared ownership and affordable rented housing and include both one and two-bedroom homes. Located at the gateway to the new John Pounds healthy living complex, the development is on land provided by the local council.

The new apartments replace a block of flats and former public house on the site, which had fallen into a poor state of repair. Atlantic Housing has been working with Barratt Homes and Portsmouth City Council on its plans for the site, which also include two retail units at ground floor level. The development is part of the major Portsea regeneration scheme, which also includes further new homes on the Old John Pounds site.

PMC Construction & Development Services Ltd is a family based company in Portsmouth, who are undertaking the regeneration development for Atlantic Housing Ltd. Steve Cripps is the Contract Manager for the Queens Street site. Contact: PMC Construction & Development Services Ltd, 106 Queens Rd, Portsmouth, PO2 7NE. Tel: 023 92696025, Fax: 023 92662380.

## **NOTES TO EDITORS**

### **FIRST WESSEX HOUSING GROUP**

Manages around 16,000 affordable homes, primarily in Hampshire and with some activity in Surrey, Thames Valley and Oxford.

The group comprises Atlantic Housing Limited, First Atlantic Housing, Pavilion Housing Association, Portsmouth Housing Association, Fernhill Care Limited and Wessex Property Limited.

### **PORTSMOUTH HOUSING ASSOCIATION**

Provides homes in Portsmouth, Fareham, Gosport and Havant. It also provides a wide range of community regeneration services across South East Hampshire.

### **ATLANTIC HOUSING AND FIRST ATLANTIC HOUSING**

Provide a full range of affordable housing including rented, supported, shared ownership and key worker housing. A large support portfolio includes housing for older people, extra-care housing, dementia care housing, housing for people with learning disabilities, people recovering from mental illness and some specialist accommodation. They cover a geographic area spanning Eastleigh, Southampton, Winchester and the New Forest.

### **PAVILLION HOUSING ASSOCIATION**

Is the largest provider of housing association homes for rent in the Aldershot, Farnborough, Ash and Farnham areas.

### **FERNHILL CARE**

Provides care services for tenants of First Wessex Housing Group and other landlords and for individuals in the community with support needs. It specialises in domiciliary, extra- and dementia care.

**WESSEX PROPERTY LTD**

The group's in-house repairs and maintenance organisation.

**[www.firstwessexhq.co.uk](http://www.firstwessexhq.co.uk)**

**[www.atlantichousing.co.uk](http://www.atlantichousing.co.uk)**

**[www.pavilionha.co.uk](http://www.pavilionha.co.uk)**

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