

01 July 2009

For immediate release

First Wessex mural is a true symbol of team culture

Over 800 First Wessex staff joined forces to create a wall mural at their staff conference in June, held at the Macdonald Botley Park Hotel, Southampton. As part of the conference the attendees split into groups and each team was given a canvas and a section of a painting to recreate, an activity organised by Blue Hat, a teambuilding company based in Slough. The participants had to be careful to check with neighbouring teams to make sure each section joined up seamlessly! At the end of the conference the canvases were all pieced together to form a mural of an entire street, measuring a massive 20m long by 4m high.

Peter Walters, First Wessex Group Chief Executive said: "For me seeing the fantastic outcome of the completed mural painting was a very significant symbol of our team culture and our passionate workforce. I was really impressed by the way so many people got involved in creating their section of the mural, and stepped out of their comfort zones to throw themselves into doing something a bit different."

Nicola Mason, a Neighbourhood Manager at First Wessex said: "You're always going to get some members of the team who are a bit reluctant to take part, but even those who weren't sure at the start ended up making a contribution and having a great time, and everyone's reaction to the complete painting was amazing! It was just a brilliant way of bringing the whole team together, and to think that over 800 people helped to create the painting is incredible."

First Wessex now intend to find a continued use for the finished article. Smaller copies will be made for display in each of the First Wessex office buildings, and it is planned for the original to be used as hoarding on development sites as a constant reminder of a great example of teamwork.

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NOTES TO EDITORS

First Wessex Housing Group manages around 17,000 affordable homes primarily in Hampshire and with some activity in Surrey.

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

Pavilion Housing Association: the largest provider of housing association homes for rent in the Aldershot, Farnborough, Ash and Farnham areas.

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.

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 Limited: the group's in-house repairs and maintenance organisation.

www.firstwessexhq.co.uk

www.atlantichousing.co.uk

www.pavilionha.co.uk

www.phagroup.org.uk

Blue Hat UK: A multi-award winning team building and team training company based in Slough, Berkshire covering events across the UK and abroad.

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