

7th December 2007

MW/9

BUILDING LINKS FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING

Black Country Housing Group hosted a visit for the recently merged building company Taylor Wimpey plc giving them the chance to see first hand what contribution they have made towards vulnerable people living their lives more independently. Taylor Wimpey was created on 3rd July 2007 through the merger of George Wimpey and Taylor Woodrow.

The major building company has supported the work of the Foundations Independent Living Trust since it was launched in 2002. As a major donor to FILT, financial donations have been used by Home Improvement Agencies to improve the lives of vulnerable homeowners up and down the country helping to increase their independence.

Bob Gregory, Director of Community Services at Black Country Housing Group, said: “We are one of the largest Home Improvement Agencies in the country and do a great deal of work supported by FILT funds, helping vulnerable homeowners with adaptations, repairs or home improvements and providing practical support to help them live with dignity in their homes. We agreed to host this visit so that representatives from Taylor Wimpey could see, at grass roots level, what kind of work we do on a day to day basis.”

James Jordan, Group Company Secretary of Taylor Wimpey, said: “The company has been donating funds to the Foundations Independent Living Trust since it was set up in 2002 and we wanted to see, first hand, how this is making a real difference to people’s lives. During the course of our visit to Black Country Housing Group we will be visiting a client who has benefited from FILT and it will be interesting for us to see what improvements have been made and how this has made a difference to them.”

David Priestnall, a Trustee of FILT, said: “The Trust operates a Hardship Fund which Home Improvement Agencies can access on behalf of their most vulnerable clients. We have recently passed the £100k landmark as a result of the generous support from organisations such as Taylor Wimpey. This has enabled us to give much needed assistance to clients and we hope to build on this in the near future.”

From left to right: David Priestnall (FILT), Steve Woods (Head of Care & Repair, Black Country Housing Group), Mrs Barratt, Surveena Basra (Caseworker, Care & Repair Black Country Housing Group), James Jordan (Taylor Wimpey) and Geoff Soutter (Foundations)



**For more information contact Mags Winthrop, Marketing & Communications Officer, Black Country Housing Group
0121 561 1969 or 07823 534955 winthropm@bcha.co.uk**