

Stroud: Affordable housing project

# New homes open at site of old mill

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**A £1.6 MILLION affordable housing development close to Stroud town centre has been officially opened.**

Some 23 new homes have been built on the site of the former Eagle Mill at the bottom of Butterow Hill in Stroud.

The mill had lain derelict since a devastating fire caused by a wool shredding machine overheating in 1954.

## Built

The design of the new buildings draws on features of the site's past use – particularly noticeable in the doors and windows – to give the development more character.

The homes were built as the result of a partnership between Stroud District Council and the Knightstone Housing Association.

Funding has come from grants from the council and the Government's Housing Corporation, together with finance raised by Knightstone.

by Sue Painter

The development consists of eight family houses to rent, nine three-bedroom houses for sale on a part-rent, part-buy basis and accommodation for six single people.

All incorporate space saving, security and energy efficiency measures.

Many of the new tenants – drawn from Stroud District Council's housing waiting list – have already moved in and those part-buying are expected to exchange contracts shortly.

Builders the JP Group from Tewkesbury started work in February 1996 and the scheme was completed in June.

David Greenhalgh from Knightstone said the housing authority was continually working with the district council to find new sites for affordable housing.

And he said that despite being more expensive on which to build, brown field sites such as Eagle Mill

did offer residents access to town centre facilities.

"We want to get away from building estates on the edge of town where there are no facilities."

Chairwoman of Stroud District Council Margaret Nolder said the new development – called Eagle Mill Close – managed to capture the atmosphere of Stroud's mills.

"It fits in so well with the mill theme. We hope we continue to have a good relationship and partnership with Knightstone."

## Pleasing

Mayor of Stroud John Marjoram said the design of the houses was very pleasing.

"It is not too imposing on the area. I think it will be a successful little community."

Councillor Bob Hall, vice chairman of Stroud District Council's housing services committee, welcomed the homes but said they would only make small inroads into the 1,400-name waiting list.