

FOR MORE TRULY AFFORDABLE HOMES

Pledge 29 – Create opportunities for more veterans' self-build homes to be delivered

What we said we would do: We pioneered veterans' (ex-service men and women) self-build with the award-winning Nelson Project. We can and will do more to create opportunities for more homes to be delivered in this way.

What we wanted to achieve: Identify and prepare a site to provide former service personnel the opportunity to self-build their own homes.

What we have done: The first designs for the Stirling Project were released in February 2019, taking inspiration from the successful multi-award winning Nelson Project, which was completed in October 2017 and saw the construction of a 24-home development that includes 12 self-build homes for military veterans and 12 mixed use affordable homes, including supported housing. Based on the site of a former residential care home in Honicknowle Green, the Stirling Project is a proposed development of 25 self-contained affordable homes to rent. It is planned for the proposed homes to be self-built by former service personnel in need of housing whilst earning construction qualifications, developing the skills needed to engage with the project and gaining valuable job-based skills. Twelve of the homes will be allocated to the service veterans who will be building out the project alongside the appointed contractor.

Plymouth City Council has again teamed up with Housing Association partners LiveWest, with designs provided by award-winning architect Graham Lobb of Form Design. Design and scheme illustrations were on show at a public consultation event at Honicknowle Youth Centre in February 2019, giving residents the opportunity to view and feedback on the proposed plans before a planning application was submitted by LiveWest.

A planning application has now been submitted to the City Council for the project at Stirling House for 25 homes, consisting of six houses – including one specially designed for wheelchair-users – and 19 one and two bedroom flats in three blocks. All of the homes at Stirling House will be for social rent, providing more truly affordable housing to meet the needs of a range of households. Stirling House was a former residential care home, owned by the Council, which had been empty for several years. It was finally demolished in October 2018, and the site remediated by June 2019. The project will also use the land created by the acquisition and demolition of the neighbouring disused Honicknowle health clinic, formerly owned by the NHS.

What's next: The scheme hopes to secure planning consent by October 2019, go out to tender by November and award the contract for the build by March 2020, with a view to commencing on site by May 2020 and the scheme completed and ready for occupation by August 2021.

Find out more!

Here is a news story about our work to deliver the pledge:

<http://plymouthnewsroom.co.uk/demolition-stirling-house-begins/>

<http://plymouthnewsroom.co.uk/first-look-stirling-project-designs/>

