



Duke of Gloucester visit

One of the obvious highlights of the whole year was the visit of the Duke of Gloucester.

The Duke's visit helped commemorate Bournville Junior School's centenary celebrations - and he dedicated a specially-commissioned stained glass window to mark the occasion.

A grand tour of the school was organised for the Duke, who completed his visit to Bournville by visiting the famous carillon, seeing the first house to be built on the Estate, in Mary Vale Road, as well as inspecting the Trust's solar village.

STATUS Survey

The Trust is required every three years to undertake a STATUS Survey (Standardised Tenants Satisfaction Survey). This is carried out independently of BVT.

We are delighted to report that the results from the 2006 survey were extremely positive, demonstrating increased satisfaction levels across all areas, compared to the last survey in 2003.

The aim of the survey is to ensure we have taken into account residents' needs and concerns and are providing them with the best home and services possible.

Maintenance Panel

The Bournville Village Trust Maintenance Panel continues to play a major role in helping BVT improve our maintenance policies and procedures.

In 2006 the Panel helped select components for houses, reviewed information brochures, visited empty properties across the estate and continues to review the standard to which empty properties are repaired before being re-let. The Panel comprises eight tenants and four officers.

Chadwich Manor Farm

The Trust's tradition of working with farmers to help them respond to increasing competitive challenges continued apace in 2006.

One such project was a former farm building at Chadwich Manor Farm, near Bromsgrove.

What was a disused building is now being used for the production and sale of traditional pottery and crafts. Visitors can watch the work happening and can browse around the gallery to look at the finished pieces.

Lawley

In partnership with the Beth Johnson Housing Group, BVT was also selected to be the social housing provider in charge of long-term stewardship for a new community at Lawley. This will be the largest of the new schemes in Telford, eventually comprising more than 3,000 homes.

A year in the making

Lightmoor

The historic development of Lightmoor moved away from the planning stage to implementation during 2006. This is a joint venture between the Trust and English Partnerships. A ten-year project and the largest in the West Midlands outside Birmingham, BVT plans to build a total of 800 homes with social, leisure and sports facilities - forming a real community with commercial and employment opportunities. The first residents moved in during April, and the event was marked with a small ceremony conducted by David Wright MP. Persimmon Homes have now finished the first phase of development which consists of 40 houses in a range of sizes, ten of which will be rented by the Trust. The next phase of work began at the end of the year with Wimpey Homes building 108 new properties.

Shenley Phase I

The first phase of Shenley regeneration was completed. The houses are very much designed with the highest environmental standards in mind. Some rooms slot into the hillside with solar panels on the roof to provide pre-heating to the hot water.

Lower Shenley

Progress continued on future plans for the Lower Shenley development, and when complete, savings of up to 60% in carbon emissions are expected, with low energy bills for residents. Local people will continue to be consulted as work progresses.

Bournville Architects

A number of significant projects were completed last year. One of the most innovative projects was the construction of a new building in Bristol Road, Selly Oak. Work began earlier in the year on a specialist residential home for people recovering from acquired brain injuries. Among the developments were the £1.9 million sports hall and business centre at Selly Park Girls' School, opened by Birmingham City Football Club Chief Executive Karren Brady, and a new sports hall at Dame Elizabeth Cadbury School. A new computer suite was unveiled at St Matthew's Primary School, in Telford.

