

# Langrove Community Housing Co-operative



Receiving the keys from Riverside - Ann McDonald (Co-op Secretary), Heidi Daley (new tenant and now committee member), Paul Mangan (Co-op Chair), Christopher (Heidi's son), Sue Ward (Riverside HA) and Lorraine Mangan (Co-op Committee member)

5 homes  
Affordable rented

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Having lost fourteen of its original homes through Right to Buy, Langrove Community Housing Co-operative in the Everton area of Liverpool were keen to investigate the possibility of developing new homes to replace some of those sold. The co-op had originally been formed in 1986 following the decision by Liverpool City Council to demolish 30 four bedroomed houses in the Everton area of Liverpool. Local community activists, including actress Glenda Jackson, staged a sit-in protest over several months to stop the bulldozers. The houses were eventually refurbished and occupied in 1989, and the co-op subsequently built 26 new homes and refurbished five more homes in the late 1990s. The original tenants had secure tenancies and retained the right to buy.

The Co-op contacted Riverside Housing Association to discuss buying and refurbishing a local derelict block of

flats. However, with most applicants on the co-op's waiting list needing family homes, the co-op decided to demolish the existing building and build 5 three bedroomed houses on the vacant site. A development agreement was signed with Riverside in 2012, and the co-op worked with local housing service provider, North West Housing Services to produce a 30 year development finance projection. The NWHS Board approving a loan to the co-op of £100K enabled them to raise a further loan of £400k from the Co-operative Bank.

With the existing building demolished in 2012 and the Co-op's design group having decided on layouts of the new properties, the new homes, pre-allocated to five families from the co-op's waiting list, were built through 2013.



We'd lost some houses through Right to Buy, and the demand for properties in our area is high, so we thought it was the right time to develop. We built a good relationship with Riverside, and with NWHS's support, we had the finances to pay for the development. We're absolutely delighted that we have been able to rehouse families in housing need, and the new development has strengthened our community spirit. Just as pleasing is that one of the new tenants has become a management committee member.

**Paul Mangan - Langrove Chair and one of the co-op's original members**