

Cheshire Extra Care Villages Completed

We are delighted to announce we have achieved Practical Completion at our extra care village in Crewe, which was handed over on time and within budget. This completes the £65million complex of five extra care villages for the elderly, spread throughout Cheshire, including the largest timber framed building in Europe.

The new villages were built for *'avantage'* and Cheshire County Council and have created 432 new state-of-the-art apartments for elderly people. The villages are situated throughout Cheshire: Hazelmere Village at Winsford; Hollymere Village at Ellesmere Port; Willowmere at Middlewich; Oakmere at Handforth and the final project, being completed today is Beechmore Village at Crewe.

The extra care villages will provide senior people of Cheshire with the opportunity of living in small communities and being surrounded by all the facilities they require, from hair dressers, libraries, bars and gyms to 24 hour on-call care. The schemes are open to all local senior people who comply with the council's age and locality constraints. However, the villages will do more than just benefit their residents, as other senior people living locally will be encouraged to interact with the residents and use the facilities.

GB constructed each building from certified-sustainable and renewable timber. Over 1,700 cubic metres of timber was incorporated into the new Beechmere development in Crewe alone, making it, at the start of the project, the building with the largest timber content in Europe. Apart from being sustainable timber framing has additional benefits such as providing general structural efficiency and speeding up the construction, with GB building all five of the villages from start to completion in just two years.

The apartments are available through social renting, private outright purchase and private shared-ownership. The residents can live unrestricted lives, coming and going as they please, but with a level of security not available in an individual house or flat, knowing that care will be available as required.

