



PRESS RELEASE

20 SEPTEMBER 2007

IMPROVEMENTS PLANNED FOR TERRACED NEIGHBOURHOOD

Residents who live in older terraced houses are set to benefit from a range of support to improve their homes.

It follows a detailed survey of housing and neighbourhood conditions in the Well Street area of Hanley.

The survey of 187 mainly Victorian terraces was commissioned by housing market renewal pathfinder RENEW North Staffordshire. It is part of the City Centre South area, where RENEW is leading work to improve housing conditions and make the area a more attractive and popular place to live.

A report on the Well Street area is to be considered by Stoke-on-Trent City Council's Executive and Members Board on Tuesday, September 25. The report recommends that the properties should be retained and improved, using finance from a range of sources.

In advance of this meeting a letter has been sent to residents of the area to inform them of the report's recommendation.

The survey – called a Neighbourhood Renewal Assessment - examined property conditions, social and environmental conditions and the housing needs of the people who live there. It also took into account ground conditions and heritage considerations.

The survey showed the properties were in reasonably good condition and that the majority had been modernised and maintained to a good standard.

However, the survey did find that 16.5% of properties failed to meet the minimum legal standard and that 57% of properties required some level of repairs.

The recommendations to Stoke-on-Trent City Council's Executive and Members Board include offering advice and financial support to eligible householders to improve their properties. It also recommends encouraging private landlords to improve their properties and join the North Staffordshire Landlord Accreditation scheme.

RENEW North Staffordshire is also planning to carry out renovation work and environmental improvements in 2008/09, subject to Government funding for the period 2008/11. Local people will be asked about what work they want to see done during 2008.

The Well Street area includes part of Gilman Street, part of Well Street, Mulberry Street, Nelson Place, part of Picton Street, part of Wellington Street and part of Waterloo Street.

Hardial Bhogal, director of RENEW North Staffordshire, said: "The Well Street area sits alongside other parts of City Centre South where we are making excellent progress with our regeneration programme.

"Residents in the Well Street area will see work taking place in other streets in their neighbourhood this year and, subject to Government funding, we will be asking local people what improvements they would like to see in their streets next year."

Councillor Mervin Smith, portfolio holder for regeneration at Stoke-on-Trent City Council, said: "The properties in the Well Street area are in reasonably good condition and most residents want to see the area improved.

“We will now work together with RENEW North Staffordshire to make advice and support available to residents to improve their properties where work is needed.

“We will also work together to carry out environmental improvements and improve the appearance of the streets.”

Ends

For further information contact:

Michael Howard at Staniforth on 0161 919 8034,
Michael.howard@staniforth.co.uk

Linda Isted at Staniforth on 0161 919 8030
Linda.isted@staniforth.co.uk.

Notes to editors

1. RENEW North Staffordshire is the housing market renewal pathfinder for Stoke-on-Trent, Newcastle-under-Lyme and Biddulph East. Our aim is to help make North Staffordshire a thriving, diverse conurbation where people want to live, work, invest and study. We do this by working with communities and partners to:
 - balance housing supply and demand
 - retain and attract population
 - provide quality housing that meets the aspirations of existing and new residents
 - transform the environment and make the best of our heritage and green space
 - support economic regeneration.
2. The RENEW North Staffordshire team can be contacted by the public on 01782 232024 or renew@civic1.stoke.gov.uk. Further information can be found on the website: www.renewnorthstaffs.gov.uk.