



Part of the new conversion

East Clayton Farm: a unique shared ownership housing scheme 20/10/09

Working with client Lorica Trust, Lee Evans Partnership has just completed the conversion of East Clayton Farm, West Sussex, into the first shared ownership housing scheme in the country for young people with profound and multiple disabilities. What makes the development unique is that it is part of a project with a much wider social remit which seeks to create a thriving and sustainable community in its own right.

Owned by the National Trust the farm had not been in productive use for a number of years allowing both the buildings and the land to fall into disrepair and neglect. Lorica's long term aim is to re-establish East Clayton as an operational and productive farm which will offer residents the opportunity to live on a working 120 acre farm to enhance the quality of their lives.

Bradbury Court, the farm's new living units which are completely independent, offers a safe, secure and stimulating living experience for the residents. Lee Evans Partnership worked alongside the National Trust to restore and convert the farm's derelict outbuildings into eight self-contained flats fully equipped with disabled facilities, of which two are accommodated in a new-build extension. A key feature is the glazed heated walkway which encircles the courtyard and provides sheltered access to and from each flat and leads through to community facilities in the restored farmhouse.

The project has been driven forward by the vision of Stephen Sharpe, Chairman of MiLife UK - The Department of Health's Pathfinder Community Interest Company which is currently working with prospective residents to ensure that care is tailor made to suit each individual. Doug Sanders, Chairman of Lorica Trust and Stephen Sharpe both comment, "We have been very pleased to work with Lee Evans Partnership on this project at East Clayton Farm and are indebted to their innovation and architectural expertise in developing the site from the derelict buildings we first saw to the excellent facilities that will benefit the residents." The new residents are due to move into their shared-ownership flats in late Autumn 2009.

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