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### **CHIPS TOPPED WITH SAUCE**

Chips, the first residential building by Will Alsop in the UK and the first building for private sale at New Islington, Manchester's Millennium Community has reached its full height of nine storeys and the significant event was marked by a topping out ceremony featuring chips and tomato sauce.

"We couldn't not celebrate the topping out of Chips without, chips!" said Nick Johnson, deputy chief executive, Urban Splash. "We've reached an important milestone in the building work and we think this is a great reason to celebrate Chips and the success of New Islington, but also have a bit of fun while we admire the amazing views."

The topping out ceremony included a song set by Dominic Collins, Ancoats own singing postie and Nick Johnson together with Urban Splash chairman Tom Bloxham MBE smashed a bottle of tomato ketchup against the building to mark the occasion.

The topping out of Chips is the latest in a series of achievements this year as the ambitious vision for New Islington, the 31 acre site just east of Manchester city centre is turned into a reality.

Earlier this year the second phase of social housing at Guest Street, designed for Manchester Methodist Housing Association by DeMetz Forbes Knight was completed. The 14 houses are all occupied and it recently received a gold award for partnership at the property world's Oscar equivalent, the What House? Awards.

In October this year the first batch of Ancoats cider was produced using the apples from the orchard in Cotton Field. Kevin Corcoran born and brought up in Ancoats and threw the idea at Nick Johnson, Urban Splash deputy chief executive five years ago during the community consultation for New Islington.

“Urban Splash and the architects asked me what I wanted in the area and I said I wanted to make cider, Nick looked at me and said alright, I tell you what, I’ll build you an orchard, and that’s just what they did,” said Kevin Corcoran, who lives in Islington Square, the first of the new housing created for New Islington by Manchester Methodist Housing Association.

The orchard is part of Cotton Field the park in New Islington funded by national regeneration agency English Partnerships. The orchard sits in five acres of new parkland which includes 2 new canals, an island and new picnic area for city centre residents.

The new health centre on Old Mill Street is set to open in early 2008 with views over Cotton Field and the new canals. The health centre will include a wide range of NHS clinical and therapy services, in addition to two local GP practices, a community pharmacy, a minor injuries unit plus a range of other health services including sexual health, foot care and mental health all under one roof.

Taylor Wimpey’s 200 home Botanic scheme was launched for public sale in the summer and work will begin on the site in the New Year to deliver the scheme designed by Liverpool based architects shedkm.

Tutti Frutti, the competition launched by Urban Splash in June 07 to invite people to design and build their own homes proved very popular and it is expected that work will start on site by the end of 2008 to create this most unique street of individually designed houses.

“With our partners at New Islington we’ve achieved a lot so far and we’re having a lot of fun doing it” said Nick Johnson, deputy chief executive, Urban Splash. “There’s much more to come too, we hope to launch some houses for public sale next year and we’ll also be holding a competition to find another development partner to work with us to deliver an outstanding scheme on one of plots we have left to develop.”

Urban Splash has several two bedroom apartments available for private sale in Chips prices start from £178,000. For further information visit [www.chipsforsale.co.uk](http://www.chipsforsale.co.uk) or call the sales team on 033 666 9999.

In addition there are 50 apartments available through Plumlife, part of Great Places Housing Group, specialises in shared ownership schemes, allowing first time buyers to purchase a share of their home and pay rent on the remainder, enabling them to get onto the property ladder.

There are 27 one-bedroom and 23 two-bedroom apartments at the Chips development available to buy through Plumlife’s shared ownership scheme. Prices start at £68,750 for a one-bedroom apartment (based on a 55% share) with an additional monthly rent of £129. The offer is open to anyone unable to afford to buy a property outright. This includes first time buyers, keyworkers, housing association and local authority housing tenants. Priority will be given to applicants living or working in the New Islington and Ancoats areas.

For further information contact Plumlife on 0161 447 5050 or visit [www.plumlife.co.uk](http://www.plumlife.co.uk)

Chips is part of New Islington, Manchester’s Millennium Community, which in turn is one of national regeneration agency English Partnerships’ seven Millennium Communities, New Islington is a partnership between English Partnerships, Urban Splash and New East Manchester Ltd together with appointed social landlord, Manchester Methodist Housing Association. The 30 acre site, just east of Manchester city centre is being radically

transformed to a strategic and ambitious vision created by Will Alsop. A new canal and water park, over 1700 new homes, office space, a school, a health clinic, shops, bars and restaurants are planned to be created, using the worlds best architecture.

[www.urbansplash.co.uk](http://www.urbansplash.co.uk)

[www.chipsforsale.co.uk](http://www.chipsforsale.co.uk)

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[www.newislington.co.uk](http://www.newislington.co.uk)

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**The Millennium Communities Programme** is creating seven innovative, environmentally sustainable developments in diverse locations across the country. Initiated in 1997 with the launch of a design competition for Greenwich Millennium Village in London, the programme aims to influence and encourage the wider building industry to embrace innovation and higher environmental standards. The other six communities being created through the programme are: Allerton Bywater near Leeds, New Islington, East Manchester; South Lynn, Kings Lynn; Telford, East Ketley; Oakgrove, Milton Keynes and Hastings, East Sussex. The programme aims to deliver over 9000 new homes by 2014. For further information visit [www.englishpartnerships.co.uk/millcomms](http://www.englishpartnerships.co.uk/millcomms). Keep up to date on the latest Millennium Communities news by visiting <http://mcnetwork.englishpartnerships.co.uk/>

**English Partnerships** is the government's national regeneration agency delivering high quality, sustainable growth in England. It does this by developing its portfolio of strategic sites and acting as the government's advisor on brownfield land. It also ensures that surplus public sector assets are used to support wider government objectives, especially those contained in the Sustainable Communities Plan. English Partnerships helps create

communities where people can afford to live and want to live. Information on projects and programmes can be found at [www.englishpartnerships.co.uk](http://www.englishpartnerships.co.uk)

English Partnerships and the Housing Corporation are working with the Department for Communities and Local Government to establish the proposed new national

### **New East Manchester Ltd**

New East Manchester Ltd (NEM) is an Urban Regeneration Company and as such is a partnership between Manchester City Council, English Partnerships (EP) and the Northwest Regional Development Agency (NWDA). It is NEM's role to implement the Regeneration Framework, secure the required public and private funding, lead on specific major development projects as well as co-ordinate the range of regeneration and renewal initiatives in the area. New Islington is part of the New East Manchester regeneration area.

### **Urban Splash**

Urban Splash has an established reputation as a pioneer of regeneration and an advocate of modern design. The company has received 223 awards to date for business success, architecture and its contribution to regeneration. Its award-winning projects include Timber Wharf, Box Works, Britannia Mills and Smithfield Buildings at Manchester and Collegiate, Matchworks, Tea Factory and Concert Square at Liverpool. Urban Splash is developing further schemes at Castlefield, Manchester and an exciting scheme at Altrincham, Cheshire designed by Foster and Partners, as well as schemes at Plymouth, Leeds, Birmingham, Sheffield, Bristol, Morecambe and Bradford.

### **Manchester Methodist Housing Association**

MMHA's ambitious programme of regeneration and urban renewal sets standards that others try to achieve. Winner of the Housing Association Regenerator of the Year Award in 2004 and 2006, the organisation is committed to building cohesive, sustainable communities that have a positive impact on residents and the environment. Housing Corporation partnering status and the Association's work with more than 25 local authorities affirms its position as a major regional player. MMHA is part of Great Places Housing Group.