

Relish

RESIDENTS 4 LOW-IMPACT SUSTAINABLE HOMES



Relish: the story

What is Relish™?

Relish™ stands for:

- 1 Residents
- 2 Low Impact Sustainable Homes.
- 3



The programme is designed around sensible measures that will reduce energy use and fuel poverty for residents living in homes from registered providers.



About Relish™

Relish began as an idea. Our working title for the project was 'the retrofit brief' which initially, focused on optimising opportunities for residents, for landlords and potentially, a wider range of beneficiaries.

Our founding group comprises Worthing Homes (www.worthing-homes.org.uk), a registered provider in the Sussex coastal region, Faithorn Farrell Timms (FFT) (www.effefftee.co.uk), specialist surveying consultants and Rydon (www.rydon.co.uk), a nationwide contractor with a significant commitment to refurbishment of RP stock.

This group believes there is a pragmatic and cost effective approach to retrofitting that not only meets the 'decent homes' standards, but also contributes to the government's sustainability and fuel poverty agendas.

We laid down our **key parameters for the project:**

- Our pilot scheme must be with standard, traditional housing stock (ie. 1950s 3 bedroom semi-detached homes).
- The approach must be designed so that it can be rolled out to many homes with residents in-situ.
- Maximum spend: £6,500.*
- Include a residents' awareness and support programme.
- Measure outcomes over a 12 month period.
- Be approached 'scientifically' to maximise value of pilot data.**
- Pilot scheme data will inform wider roll-out programme.
- Outcomes fed back to residents as a rating, which reflects the energy efficiency of their household.
- All processes will follow 'best practice', including communications with residents.

* As an extra-over, the 'normal' expenditure on planned maintenance and lifecycle reinvestment in social housing properties.

** The pilot includes households of similar size and age range; with key elements included/excluded according to the study, so that the differences can be measured, (for more details see 'Relish: the pilot')

Our immediate ambitions for Relish™ include:

- reducing energy consumption by at least 20% through the Relish™ initiative and sustaining that reduction;
- 80% reduction in CO₂ emissions in existing stock, based upon 1990 levels;
- ensuring residents become ambassadors for the programme – hence Relish: Residents 4 Low Impact Sustainable Homes';
- becoming a lifestyle choice for residents who understand how their actions, as well as their home and appliances, impact on energy use;
- achieving energy efficiencies and savings that will have a positive and lasting effect on households;
- achieving energy efficiencies that will have a positive and lasting effect for the environment;
- being affordable, achievable and easy to replicate across the country;
- producing results that are directly attributable to key actions or lifestyle changes that are visible and understood by households – hence the 'Relish' rating for each household;
- creating a catalyst for change within the social housing sector.

Our medium term ambitions for Relish™ include:

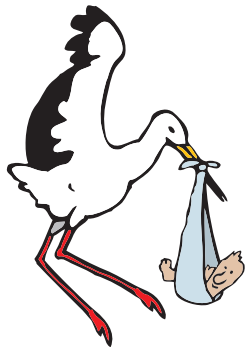
- roll-out for phase 2: 156 flats in the Worthing area to undergo the Relish™ programme (refurbishment/education and advice) in 2010;
- carrying out post pilot resident surveys to evaluate the longer term impact of the Relish™ programme (eg. How do residents realise the financial benefits? Do they enjoy improved standards of living/health/life chances?).

Our longer term ambitions for Relish™ include:

- pioneering further pilots for registered providers, private households, schools, hospitals and commercial communities;
- empowering resident-driven initiatives through awareness raising, peer to peer sessions and targeted campaigns with partner organisations;
- incorporating other sustainable initiatives such as waste reduction, efficient use of water and 'thinking local';
- creating an independent, nationwide energy/eco rating that is calculated through key actions/lifestyle changes made by households.



So WHAT BEGAN LIFE AS THE 'RETROFIT BRIEF', Soon TOOK ON A LIFE OF ITS OWN, (FOR MORE DETAILS PLEASE SEE THE RELISH TIMELINE).





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Worthing
HOMES



Rydon

Residents 4 Low Impact Sustainable Homes (RELISH) is being pioneered by Worthing Homes in association with specialist surveying consultants Faithorn Farrell Timms (FFT) and construction company Rydon. The aim of the pilot scheme is to market test the impact of a combined refurbishment /education programme. The research will also evaluate what impact behaviour has in delivering positive results.

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