

Amethyst Homes: CASE STUDY

# Supporting a growing developer

### At a glance

- Growing developer based in the North East of England
- Four developments in its first 9 years
- Winner of five Premier Guarantee Quality Recognition Awards
- Plans to grow from 100 to 200 units a year in the next three years



# Your company is less than 10 years old. What have you achieved in that time?

Creating a business from scratch to now having four developments takes hard work and dedication. The fact that we've done this in less than 10 years is an achievement in itself. Key to our success is having a stable, experienced and dedicated team.

### What makes Amethyst Homes different?

Due to the size of the business, we try to do things a little differently. The specification and finish is unlike mainstream housebuilders, in that we offer more recognised brands rather than those commonly used by volume house builders. We do this to try and give our customers greater choice on the specification of their home. We intend to build on this over the next few years, as the business continues to grow and evolve.

# You've won five Premier Guarantee Quality Recognition Awards already! What does it mean to win? How do you keep up the levels of quality and consistency?

Winning any external award is special, however the Quality Recognition Award always means a lot to the site team. All our staff are proud of what they do and the homes that they handover, so to be recognised as being the best within your peer group/industry brings a great deal of pride and satisfaction.

### Describe the challenges and highlights of your developments

**Regents Park Consett** is the site of the old Consett Steelworks, so the whole site had to be fully remediated – which was a significant operation.

The creation of over 400 homes, along with the provision of community facilities, including commercial units and allotments and open space and parks, has resulted in a whole new community being established in a hugely positive and popular environment.



The Meadows Stillington is a relatively small development, with the site nestled on the edge of the village. The site is adjacent to the main access road in to the village opposite the local primary school, so all development and deliveries to site required careful planning and management.

The Meadows has been highly popular from a sales point of view, which is extremely rewarding for our site and sale teams.



#### **Sleekburn View South East**

**Northumberland** is located close to the river's edge, so this required an engineered clay retaining wall to be located around the development to allow construction to take place.

The site is nearby the river estuary protected with Site of Special Scientific Interest SSSI status, as it is recognised as a vital area for wading birds. Consequently, the site needed careful planning and management during construction.

The result is a development which offers buyers an outlook on an ever-changing landscape, with the river being tidal.



## How have you found the experience of working with Premier Guarantee?

Our dealings with Premier Guarantee have been very positive and we feel that they have been supportive of our business. Good communication is key and having a good working relationship is extremely important.

Our approach is, if there is an issue or concern, which can occur due to the nature of our business and environment in which we operate, it is dealt with promptly and in a positive and proactive manner.

# What are some emerging themes in house building and how are Amethyst readying themselves for the future of building?

The changes in the building regulations, especially around sustainability, is a major step change not just for Amethyst Homes, but for home builders in general. We fully endorse this approach and want to play our part. We are currently reviewing what we do, how we do it and what we should be doing in the future to ensure we are meeting and where possible exceeding industry targets.

### What's on the horizon for Amethyst?

We have a number of new schemes in the pipeline. Over the last 12 months we have been starting to shape the business to enable us to deliver our growth plans. We aim to be a 200 homes business within the next three years. We have the pipeline to do this, and our focus is to ensure that as we grow we retain the good work to date and build on this going forward.

Key to our growth is our desire to do things right, efficiently and effectively and grow sustainably, whilst retaining the culture, ethics and personable approach of the business.

### Richard Bass, Development Director, Amethyst Homes

Learn more at Amethyst Homes: amethysthomes.co.uk

### **Our View**

Amethyst Homes have worked with Premier Guarantee for a number of years. They have shown how engagement across all areas of our working relationship helps set high standards, as their Quality Recognition Awards demonstrate. As well as warranty and building control they have become one of our first customers to sign up to our New Homes Survey, which itself demonstrates the importance they put on customer service and quality build. Amethyst Homes are a joy to work with and we look forward to creating many more new homes with them.

Dan Hodgson, Business Account Manager, Premier Guarantee

Amethyst Homes site managers clearly care about the quality of the build and the product they provide to new homebuyers. They maintain a good working relationship with Premier Guarantee surveyors and are constantly trying to improve and ask questions to ensure they meet warranty standards, with key stage inspections always requested in a timely manner. Overall, a high standard is maintained across the site, with managers constantly trying to improve on the quality of trade skills and construction details on site.

Philip Simpson, Senior Risk Management Surveyor, Premier Guarantee



### **Premier Guarantee Awards**

#### **Regents Park Consett:**

Highly Commended in the Development of the Year (11-50 units) North category (2018)

Quality Recognition Awards 2021 and February 2022

### The Meadows Stillington:

Quality Recognition Awards July 2021 and January 2022





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