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The collaboration behind the Moreleigh Heights homes. From left, Rod Hewett, chairman of South Devon Rural Housing Association; landowners Rob and Helen Reeve; MP Sarah Wollaston; John Balsdon, builder; and Steve Prime, chief executive of the housing association

# Parish collaboration is key to new homes

LOCAL families are moving into affordable homes which have been built as part of an innovative £2m collaboration

A local builder, landowner, parish and district councils and local housing association are behind the 12 family homes at Moreleigh Heights in Moreleigh which have been built for local people.

South Hams Council has been working with South Devon Rural Housing Association, Community Council for Devon and Halwell and Moreleigh Parish Council for the last six years to bring forward the development

To welcome families to their new homes, a community event, involving Totnes MP Dr Sarah Wollaston, representatives from South Devon Rural Housing Association and South Hams Council, their parish council, the families moving in and villagers, celebrated the completion of four of the homes.

Dr Wollaston said: 'This is a fantastic achievement for all involved. Schemes like this help to keep communities alive.'

'Affordable housing in communities makes a real difference throughout South Hams. Thank you to everyone who has been involved.'



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The Collings family receiving the keys to their new home from Totnes MP Sarah Wollaston

The Collings family - Jamie, Hannah and their three children Jessica, Sumer and Chanel - have been allocated one of the affordable rented homes.

Jamie said: 'I grew up in the village and my family live here. It is great to be able to live close to them so that we can provide support for each other.'

South Hams Council allocated £40,000 from its Housing Capital Programme to support the development of much-needed rural affordable housing and provided an equity stake under the South Hams Intermediate Rent Enterprise, which has delivered over 30 homes in South Hams in the last eight years.

Four of the homes are avail-

able at affordable rents for families with a local connection to the parish and a housing need as assessed by Devon Home Choice.

The remaining eight homes will be available for discounted sale to help families trying to get their first step on the property ladder.

The discounted homes for sale will be at 80 per cent or less of market value and held in perpetuity as discounted housing for local people.

A local builder is building the homes at less than normal builder's profit.

Ward councillor Michael Hicks said: 'I am delighted to say that we have been working in partnership to deliver these affordable homes for Halwell and Moreleigh parish.'

'This is a great example of partnership working and collaborating with local communities to deliver housing with local need in mind, congratulations to all involved.'

Steve Prime, chief executive of South Devon Rural Housing Association, added: 'This is a culmination of around 10 years of hard work to bring affordable housing to Halwell and Moreleigh, which will now provide homes for local people for years to come. A great result for all concerned.'