Synergy Housing Group is building a new ‘Extra Care’ housing scheme in Blandford, in partnership with North Dorset District Council and Dorset County Council.

The scheme in Park Road will consist of 40 one- and two-bedroom frail elderly apartments and is due to open in Autumn 2010. The scheme has been designed to provide the opportunity for people to live as active and independent lives as possible, living in their own homes with the support they need. For many people this might mean never having to make the decision to go into residential care even as their care and support needs increase.

Each fully self contained apartment will give the tenants their own home with their own front door, but also provides the opportunity to be part of a community that meets the needs of both active and more frail older people. All apartments include a fitted kitchen, walk in showers, central heating, double glazing and smoke alarms. Rooms have space for equipment and support if and when an occupier may need it.

Dorset County Council Adult and Community Services will arrange for a care and support team to provide planned care and support 24 hours a day, seven days a week according to individual’s own needs and requirements. The scheme will also be staffed by an East Dorset Housing Association scheme manager who will liaise with care teams and ensure that the housing, care and support needs of residents are met.

All apartments and communal areas will be equipped with pull cords linked to a care line so that the care team can be alerted in an emergency. In addition to the pull cords residents will have pendant transmitters. The most up to date ‘telecare’ technology will be an integral feature of all the apartments. This adaptability will assist in meeting the changing needs of residents, providing a home for life.
Am I eligible for an extra care flat?
Priority will be given to people who are over 60 (or over 55 with a disability) with care needs or whose health and well-being would benefit from living in a supported environment. Applicants will need to be on the North Dorset District Council housing register (please see www.north-dorset.gov.uk for more information).

How to apply to live there?
Contact the housing team at North Dorset District Council who hold a register of applications. See details right.

All eligible applications will be reviewed by a Lettings Panel, made up of representatives from the North Dorset District Council, Synergy Housing Group (or East Dorset Housing Association) and Dorset County Council Adult and Community Services.

Facilities will include:

**Meal provision**
It is intended to provide one meal per day if required. A separate charge is made for meals.

**Community Lounge**
For social activities, relaxing and meeting friends and relatives.

**Community Dining Room**
For eating and meeting with friends and relatives.

**Hairdressing / Treatment Rooms**
These can be used by visiting doctors, chiropodists and other therapists as required by tenants.

**Hobby room**
WiFi access and room for crafts.

**Fully equipped assisted bathroom**
Also two further bathrooms are available for use, in addition to showers in each flat.

**Guest room**
With ensuite facilities, where friends and family can stay when visiting, priced at a very reasonable rate.

**Easy access and extra support**
Fitted handrails and wide corridors to accommodate wheelchairs and for those who appreciate extra support. Two passenger lifts are also provided for ease of transfer between floors.

**Laundry**
For people who don’t want to use their own washing machines, there is a communal laundry equipped with washing machines and tumble dryers.

**Mobility scooter store room**
Mobility scooter storage and re-charging facility.

**TRAIlwAY COURT, BLANDFoRD**

Just some of the facilities the Extra Care scheme will include:

**Meal provision** . **Community lounge** . **Hairdressing / Treatment rooms**
**Hobby room** . **Fully equipped assisted bathroom** . **Guest room**

**Easy access and extra support** . **Laundry** . **Mobility scooter store room**

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For further information please contact
Housing Advice and Allocations at North Dorset District Council

**Telephone** (01258) 454111
**email** housingcs@north-dorset.gov.uk
**or write to:** Nordon, Salisbury Road Blandford Forum, Dorset DT11 7LL