

Homes handed over in Greenville

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The Greenville development in Fisantekraal is taking shape with the last of the 868 Breaking New Ground (BNG) houses built in the first phase having been handed over to their new owners last week.

Eight business sites are also now available to be rented out to local entrepreneurs.

Garden Cities will assist them through an enterprise and supplier development programme, which will see them being mentored on business skills, says Johan Matthews, group CEO of Garden Cities.

"A community or youth centre will also be built as part of the current sub-phase, as there is only one facility of this kind to service the whole community, including Fisantekraal," he says.

Other facilities in the pipeline are possibly a primary school, a clinic and a fuel station.

"The Department of Public Works has expressed an interest in acquiring the allocated primary school site to meet the urgent need for a second primary school in the area. The department is also busy with the procurement process and City Health has also bought a site for a clinic. Various fuel companies are interested in a site for a fuel station," Matthews says.

In the second phase of this project, a total of 507 houses will be built, of which the first 71 houses are planned to be handed over before the builders' holiday in December.

For Udene Hill, one of the latest beneficiaries, it came as a shock when she received a new house. "She has been moving from house to house with her baby daughter, Casey, and was grateful to be settling down," Matthews says.

Another beneficiary is Angeline Bailey, who was given a house after her mother Sarah Plyman, who had originally applied for

a house 12 years ago, passed away.

All the recipients of the houses are former backyard dwellers or occupants of informal housing in the area.

Launched in March 2016, Greenville is a private-public partnership between the City of Cape Town, the provincial government and the non-profit residential developer, Garden Cities.

The entire suburb will eventually comprise 16 000 homes across the entire economic spectrum, and will include bonded housing.

About 4350 people are now housed in Greenville.

"Garden Cities has maintained an average of 25 to 30 houses a month being built since the inception of the project.

"The houses are constructed using an innovative material, Benex blocks, which were invented in Australia. The blocks and associated materials, including panels and roofs, are now produced by previously unskilled and unemployed local people in an Epping factory, which also exports the product back to Australia," Matthews says.

All the current phase houses are 42m², except for the units for disabled residents, which are 45m² to provide for disability specifications.

So far, the project has created over 150 job opportunities for local residents, who have been employed since the beginning.

"As part of its own community development initiative, Garden Cities has been funding some sports activities in the community and there is an excellent synergy between the company's northern areas residential project, Pinehurst near Durbanville, where swimming and football training facilities have been made available to Greenville residents," Matthews says.

Garden Cities has also set up a community improvement programme advocating good citizenship and leadership.



Udene Hill (holding baby Casey) was in shock when she received a new house. She has been moving from house to house with her daughter and is grateful to be settling down. Her grandmother Elizabeth Hill (right) assisted her in the application process. With them are Abigail Hill, Devandr  Hill and Natasha Hill joining in to celebrate the new house.



Phakama Mayekiso and Maliviwe Sitwayi are expecting twins and are very happy to be the recipients of a new home.