

NEW FAMILY HOMES IN THE HEART OF HEADINGTON

When you take a stroll around Headington, you soon see why this is one of Oxford's most popular areas, and why residents are protective of their patch. Very few new properties are built here, probably because securing planning consent is no mean feat. But local developer Thomas Homes has a particular skill in designing new buildings that blend beautifully with an established setting, and their proposals often get the green light where other plans have been turned down. A case in point is the former Wests Garden Centre in the heart of Headington where a new Thomas Homes scheme of four family homes and four apartments called West Gardens is currently under construction.

An old Victorian property remains on the site and the new buildings that surround it are designed to complement its style with bay-fronted windows and feature brickwork. The four apartments are on Windmill Road – two adjoin the Victorian property and two are in a detached building on the other side. Tucked away behind these properties are the four family homes. These front onto a quiet cul-de-sac and have off-street parking – a real plus in a location as central as this.

Each of the four semi-detached houses at West Gardens has four bedrooms and spacious living accommodation spread over three floors. Downstairs, the living room is at the back of the house so you can step straight out into the garden through French doors which let light flood into the room. On the first floor there are three bedrooms and two bathrooms, and on the top floor there's a fourth bedroom-cum-family room with plenty of storage space.

While some developers let standards slip inside their properties, Thomas Homes has a reputation for extending the same level of care and attention to detail to interior layouts and design, using high-quality fittings that give a home style, plus the all-important practical features for maximum comfort and easy living. The houses at West Gardens are a good example of this with ceramic-tiled kitchens fitted with stainless steel ovens and integrated fridge/freezers and dishwashers, contemporary bathrooms, and fitted wardrobes in the master bedrooms.

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When it comes to rating the desirability of a property, location scores high in most people's book. In Headington there are plenty of plus points, from the area's lovely tree-lined streets and excellent range of local amenities to a good selection of primary and secondary schools. Not only is there a supermarket and specialist shops on your doorstep, you can hop on a bus and be in Oxford city centre in just ten minutes. The houses and apartments at West Gardens are also within walking distance of the Nuffield, Churchill, Manor and John Radcliffe Hospitals and Oxford Brookes University, so it's a quick commute if you work at any of these places.

The new houses at West Gardens are due to be completed in June this year. One of them has already been sold and it's unlikely that the remaining three will be available for much longer considering the ideal position of these superb family homes.

You can arrange to view the properties by contacting Thomas Merrifield on **01865 515000**. You can also download details from the Thomas Homes website at **www.thomashomes.co.uk**