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BOOST IN AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Work is underway on an innovative £5.6 million timber frame housing scheme in the north-east of the city.

The £5,600,000 building programme, which is being funded by Whitefriars Housing Group and Coventry City Council, will see 57 high-quality affordable homes built on the site of the old Manor Guildhouse, in Heather Road, Bell Green.

The major scheme is set for completion in summer 2008. Lovell, Whitefriars' partner contractor, is carrying out the building work.

The properties will be a mixed development of two, three and four bedroom homes and two bedroom bungalows and apartments. One of the bungalows has been specially designed for disabled occupants.

In addition to the homes, which will be built using timber frames by Prestoplan and assembled on site, work will also take place to improve the nearby pond on Almond Tree Avenue.

A Social Housing Grant of around £2.7m is to be made available from Coventry City Council's Strategic Housing Regeneration Fund towards the development, with Whitefriars funding the remaining £2.9m.

John Halton, assistant director of development at Whitefriars, said: "We are delighted to be continuing our partnership with Lovell on this development. With them we will be using a timber framed modern method of construction to provide cost effective, high quality and sustainable homes.

"Building such homes is a milestone in Whitefriars' history, and also that of the area."

The Manor Guildhouse was demolished in 2003. Its original purpose, when built in 1956, was to provide homes for single men in Coventry.

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