

Departmental Updates

Community Development

On June 22nd 2011, 16 **Core Houses** were formally handed over to 16 allottees in Bath Block D, Phase 1. Through the core house pilot programme the government provides an alternative to affordable housing for low-income earners. This programme is financed by the Inter-American Development Bank under the Second Low Income Settlement Programme (LIS-2), which is currently being implemented by the CH&PA in 20 schemes. The government aims to construct 400 core houses in new and existing schemes. The core unit is a 330sq. ft. timber and concrete structure with no internal partition walls, except for the enclosed sanitary block comprising a toilet, and shower. The unit is outfitted with a basic kitchen sink and electrical wiring and plumbing. The unit lends itself to easy expansion as the occupant is able to afford it. A total of 77 persons will be housed in the 16 homes which were handed over.

Before



After



Squatter & Depressed Area Upgrading

Plans for the completion of a tarmac to facilitate the **new Sophia Market** in Pattensen, Turkeyen is currently underway. The issue of relocating 25 persons who have stalls on the road reserve is currently being addressed. These persons will be occupying spots on the tarmac upon completion of the market.

The department is currently addressing the issue of **relocation of persons** who are residing on the drainage reserves in Georgetown, particularly in East Ruimveldt and West Ruimveldt front road. To date 243 persons have applied for house lots and have been interviewed.

Land Administration & Allocation

In **all new housing schemes** the construction of houses on allocated land within the stipulated timeframe of the Agreement of Sale is of paramount importance. The CH&PA has provided serviced lots in all housing schemes to help with this matter. It is expected that construction activities will soon gain momentum and that many buildings will be constructed before the end of 2011.

The CH&PA would greatly appreciate that the residents and contractors working in new schemes **maintain the quality of the existing infrastructure** as construction of their houses takes place. Residents will therefore be advised that there will a fine of G\$10,000 per day if they: Store materials (earth, sand, stone, etc.) or mix concrete on roads or road shoulders; Drive heavy trucks (twin steer, 20 tonnes) on roads.

There have been six additional **One Stop Shops** scheduled for 2011.

Questions or comments? Please contact: Mrs. Donell Bess at 231-0258

Community Buzz



The Central Housing & Planning Authority
Phone: (592) 226-5533
41 Brickdam & United Nations Place
Georgetown, Guyana
www.chpa.gov.gy



Canadian International
Development Agency

Agence canadienne de
développement international

Quarterly Newsletter (September to December 2011) Issue 1

Message from the Editor

Welcome to the first issue of the *Community Buzz*, the newsletter produced by the Central Housing & Planning Authority (CH&PA) and the Canada-Guyana Partnership for Community Planning (C-GPCP). For the CH&PA, “addressing the housing needs of the citizens of Guyana” means that the emphasis of our work is the people and the communities where people work, live and thrive. Similarly, the C-GPCP has been working in Guyana for three years with professional planners and local communities to build awareness about the role of planning. The C-GPCP places special emphasis on the importance of community inclusion in the planning process.

Community Buzz is produced as a tool to inform local government officials, civil servants and the public in general about the achievements of local communities. It is also our goal to keep our readers informed about upcoming CH&PA events and activities related to community development work. The focus of our first issue is the community group in Area ‘B’ Lusignan. We will explore their journey through community group formation, the process of identifying priorities and community projects as well as their achievements since the group’s inception one year ago. In this issue you will also find updates on the core house pilot project, the Brickdam Streetscape Enhancement Action Plan, plans for the new Sophia Market, instructions for future residents of new housing schemes and much more.

I hope you enjoy this and all the following issues of the *Community Buzz*.

Sincerely,

Germene Stewart, Development Planner, CH&PA

Jose Canjura, Project Coordinator, Canada-Guyana Partnership for Community Planning

Updates from the Planning & Settlement Department

What has happened?

The **Brickdam Streetscape Enhancement Action Plan** aims to highlight Brickdam as the foremost historic street in the city, while improving the street’s function for both pedestrian and vehicular traffic. To learn more about this initiative, visit the CH&PA website at www.chpa.gov.gy and click on the Urban Renewal Initiatives tab.



What is happening?

5 Miles Bartica was earmarked for a Housing Scheme with the aim of providing approximately 500 house lots to meet the demand for housing in the area. So far the area has already been surveyed and the planning design and analysis has begun. The next phase of clearing and developing is soon to commence.

The CH&PA has declared **2088 acres to be developed for housing on the East Bank Demerara** in the villages of Eccles, Peter’s Hall, Providence and a portion of Herstelling. They also plan to further develop lands between the Eccles/Herstelling scheme and the existing Diamond housing scheme.

Area ‘B’ Community Development Project

The Area ‘B’ Lusignan community group has come a long way since its inception a year ago. Last November the community group was created with the help of the CH&PA to ensure that the voice of the community would be heard in all planning related matters affecting them and that the goals of their Community Development Plan would be reached in the most effective way possible.

To form the group each street in the community elected a representative and the necessary positions of the community group were filled through an internal vote. Ms. Peggy Ramraj is currently the chairperson, Ms. Nadira Harripersaud, the secretary and Mr. Parsaram Ramnauth the treasurer. Mr. Mohammed Shaheed and Ms. Lelawattie Bissoon also currently act as general committee members. Once the group was formed they quickly worked together with the CH&PA to create their constitution and were trained in a Community Leaders course at the CH&PA.

For their first project the community group worked with the Canadian Institute of Planners and the CH&PA under the C-GPCP project throughout 2011 on creating a clearly defined and developed public open space that can be accessed and utilized by all residents of the community. The community group believes that this project will set them on the right path towards positively guiding Area ‘B’ Lusignan’s overall growth and development as well as to obtain a closely-knit and strongly participatory community.

A fence has already been erected by a local contractor who was selected by the community group. The community group will continue to mobilize the residents to complete the project as well as for the many future community projects to come. The secretary, Ms. Nadira Harripersaud, believes that all residents of Area ‘B’ have truly benefitted from the establishment of the community group as the community can now engage in matters concerning them in a more meaningful way.

Jennifer Bedore, Planning Intern, CH&PA



Before



After