

## **Appendix B 4 House scheme: information to tenants**

## YORK ENERGY DEMONSTRATION PROJECT

### Chapelfield A

You are living in an energy conserving house. York City Council have installed additional loft insulation, cavity fill and double glazing in your home as part of an Energy Demonstration Project. This has been funded by the Government. This note is to tell you something about your house and its heating system, and about the York Energy Demonstration Project.

#### Getting to Know Your Heating System.

Your house is fitted with a gas central heating system. There is a boiler in the kitchen, which heats the house and the hot water. This boiler is a special energy saving type called a **condensing boiler**. Unlike most boilers, it has a small fan to pull air through itself - you can probably hear this in the kitchen. Also it produces a lot more steam than a conventional boiler - have a look outside at the boiler flue when the heating is on! This steam is quite normal for your type of boiler.

The boiler is connected to a set of radiators. The radiators in the bedrooms have **thermostatic radiator valves** on them. You can use these to adjust temperatures in the bedrooms. They will also save energy in these rooms, for example by automatically turning the radiators off on sunny days.

The pipework to the radiators is connected slightly differently from normal - one pipe goes to one of the top corners of each radiator. This should make the system slightly more efficient.

Your house heating is controlled in two ways. In your living room there is a Honeywell **room thermostat**. You use this to set the temperature of the living room. A comfortable temperature will be around 20 - 21 °C, but this is entirely up to you. When you turn on the heating, the system will bring the living room up to whatever temperature you have set on the thermostat, and then automatically hold it there.

In the kitchen there is a Randall electronic **programmer**. Its job is to turn the boiler on and off at pre-set times, to provide room heating or water heating. You can make as much or as little use of the programmer as you like. In the summer it **may be sensible** to use the programmer so that the boiler only heats the hot water tank for a few hours each day - coming on for 2 or 3 hours morning and evening.

Your house is fairly air tight. The advantage of this is that you can control how much fresh air comes in by opening or closing windows. In the winter this fresh air needs to be heated, so better control should mean lower bills. **The disadvantage is that you may not get as much fresh air as you need.** To guard against this, you should keep open the trickle ventilators that have ~~been~~ provided in the window frames. Closing them is likely to be a false economy. If you ~~need~~ extra ventilation, for example in the summer, you can just open the windows as in **any** ordinary house.

## **Measuring Your Energy Use.**

York City Council, together with Leeds Metropolitan University, would like to measure the energy that you use in your house over the next year. We want to find out how much gas and electricity you use over a year, and how much is used for each purpose - room heating, water heating, cooking, and lights. We also want to know how warm you keep your house. To do all this, we have had to install an extra gas meter, 2 heat meters, and temperature sensors in your house (this doesn't mean you will be charged double for gas!). This information will form the basis of a scientific report. **We will keep this information strictly confidential, and your name and address will not be mentioned in any publication.**

In order to collect the information from the equipment in your house, an employee of York City Council will need to visit roughly once a month, and spend about 30 minutes in your house. This will be done by prior arrangement with you.

If you have any queries or problems, you can discuss them with the meter reader, or contact Mr John Everett at the Housing Department (telephone York 613161, extension 1280).

**Thank you for your cooperation.**

## YORK ENERGY DEMONSTRATION PROJECT

### Chapelfield B

You are living in an energy conserving house. York City Council have installed additional loft insulation, cavity fill and double glazing in your home as part of an Energy Demonstration Project. This has been funded by the Government. This note is to tell you something about your house and its heating system, and about the York Energy Demonstration Project.

### Getting to Know Your Heating System.

Your house is fitted with a gas heating system. There are gas room heaters in the living room and on the landing. There is also an **instantaneous** gas fired water heater in the kitchen. This provides water directly to the taps in the bathroom and kitchen.

The unit heaters are controlled by their own thermostats on the side of each heater. There is also a programmer in the kitchen. The thermostats tell each heater what temperature to maintain, and the programmer tells them what time of day or night to come on. The unit heaters have no pilot lights to worry about - when you turn the heater on, the gas is ignited electronically. **The heaters DO need to be plugged into a power socket to work.**

The multipoint water heater is designed to come on within a few seconds of turning on one of the hot taps. Water is piped directly from the water heater to the taps - **there is no hot water cylinder in your house.** All the controls are at the bottom of the casing of the water heater. The three push buttons allow you to turn the heater on and off. The rotating knob in the bottom right hand corner of the casing is a thermostat. You can use this to raise or lower the temperature of the water from your hot taps. **Don't set the water temperature above 60°C,** as there will be a risk of scalding.

Your house is fairly air tight. The advantage of this is that you can control how much fresh air comes in by opening or closing windows. In the winter this fresh air needs to be heated. Better control should mean lower bills. **The disadvantage is that you may not get as much fresh air as you need.** To guard against this, you should keep open the trickle ventilators that have been provided in the window frames. Closing them is likely to be a false economy. If you need extra ventilation, for example in the summer, you can just open the windows as in any ordinary house.

### Measuring Your Energy Use.

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meters in your house (this doesn't mean you will be charged three times over for gas!). This information will form the basis of a scientific report. **We will keep this information strictly confidential, and your name and address will not be mentioned in any publication.**

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## YORK ENERGY DEMONSTRATION PROJECT

### Bell Farm A

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### Getting to Know Your Heating System.

Your house is fitted with an off-peak electric central heating system. There is an electric boiler in the kitchen, which heats the radiators, and hot water cylinder in the airing cupboard which heats the hot water. Your house has also been fitted with a heat recovery mechanical ventilation system - more about this later!

The electric boiler is connected to a set of radiators. The radiators in the bedrooms have **thermostatic radiator valves** on them. You can use these to adjust temperatures in the bedrooms. They will also save energy in these rooms, for example by automatically turning the radiators off on sunny days.

In your living room there is a **programmable room thermostat**. You use this to set the temperature of the living room. A comfortable temperature will be around 20 - 21 °C, but this is entirely up to you. When you turn on the heating, the system will bring the living room up to whatever temperature you have set on the thermostat, and then automatically hold it there.

On the boiler there is a charge control, and a boost control. The charge control tells the boiler how much heat to store each night using **cheap off peak electricity**. The boost control tells the boiler to use **more expensive on peak electricity**. To save money, you should use this last control as little as possible, but you may need it if you have been away from home for a few days, or in very cold weather.

In the airing cupboard you will find a hot water cylinder. This is very well insulated to save energy. The hot water cylinder is heated by off-peak electricity. If you run out of hot water, you can operate the **saver switch** in the kitchen. This heats the hot water for 1 hour using on-peak electricity **and then turns off automatically**.

Your house is considerably more air tight than a typical house. The advantage of this is that you can control how much fresh air comes in by opening or closing windows. In the winter this fresh air needs to be heated, so better control should mean lower bills. **The disadvantage is that you may not get as much fresh air as you need.** To guard against this, you should keep your mechanical ventilation system running. This is especially important in the winter if you keep the windows closed. The cost of running the ventilation system is likely to be about £50 per year, but the system is designed to recover heat from the air it sucks out of the kitchen, hall and bathroom. So on balance it

will cost little or nothing to run. **Turning the mechanical ventilation off in winter is a false economy.** If you need extra ventilation, for example in the summer, you can just open the windows as in any ordinary house.

### **Measuring Your Energy Use.**

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## YORK ENERGY DEMONSTRATION PROJECT

### Bell Farm B

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### Getting to Know Your Heating System.

Your house is fitted with a warm air central heating system. There is an electric heat recovery heat pump in the cupboard at the top of the stairs. This warms air which is then blown into the main rooms of your house. There is also a water cylinder in the airing cupboard which heats the hot water.

The heat pump is controlled by a **room thermostat** in the lounge. If the heat pump cannot provide all of the heat needed, there are ordinary electric heaters in the ducts to the rooms, as well as an electric fire in the lounge. The ordinary electric heating upstairs is controlled by its own programmable thermostat. Heat pump heat is 3 times cheaper than ordinary electric heating, but to get the best out of your heat pump, you need to run it for as long as possible. **It does not make sense to turn the heat pump off overnight if this means you need to run the ordinary electric heating in the day.**

A comfortable temperature for your lounge will be around 20 - 21 °C, but this is entirely up to you. Most people run their bedrooms a couple of degrees cooler. When you turn on the heating, the system will bring temperature up to whatever you have set on the thermostat, and then automatically hold it there.

In the airing cupboard you will find a hot water cylinder. This is very well insulated to save energy. The hot water cylinder is heated by off-peak electricity. If you run out of hot water, you can operate the **saver switch** in the kitchen. This heats the hot water for 1 hour using on-peak electricity **and then turns off automatically.**

Your house is considerably more air tight than a typical house. The advantage of this is that you can control how much fresh air comes in by opening or closing windows. In the winter this fresh air needs to be heated, so better control should mean lower bills. **The disadvantage is that you may not get as much fresh air as you need.** To guard against this, you should keep your heat pump running, especially in the winter if you keep the windows closed. The fans that move the air through you house are very cheap to operate, and **turning them off in winter is a false economy.** If you need extra ventilation, for example in the summer, you can just open the windows as in any ordinary house.



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