

New Goodricke buildings 'unbearable'

JUSTIN HANDCASTLE

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STUDENTS LIVING in the New Goodricke College accommodation on Heslington East have expressed concern about the quality of the new buildings.

Complaints have been made regarding large cracks in both the ceilings and walls of the accommodation, with pieces of plaster also falling off the walls. The issue of overheating in the kitchens and bedrooms was described as "unbearable" by students questioned.

One resident, who asked to remain anonymous, stated: "The kitchens are like saunas, and when the weather is hot they are almost suffocating. The University has brought in fans to try and help the problem but to be honest they haven't really been very effective and are only a temporary solution." She continued: "One of the main issues is that we can't open our windows much so none of the rooms can get any ventilation."

Tim Ellis, Goodricke College Chair, confirmed that this problem had been brought to his attention, and that he had contacted the College Facilities Manager in an

attempt to resolve the matter.

A University spokesman acknowledged that the "over heating in kitchens has had a big impact." He continued: "Corrective measures have been implemented and we are in the process of fitting new restrictors that will allow the windows to be opened wider allowing more natural ventilation. There is always a balance to be drawn between the amount windows can be opened and maintaining a safe environment."

Shepherd Construction, the company in charge of building the new Goodricke accommodation, confirmed that remedial works would "include changing the window fittings in some areas; however the bedroom windows will not be altered, due to safety regulations."

The statement continued: "Twelve months after project completion it is our policy to do a full 'defect check', to attend to issues such as cracks in plaster. These problems are common across all new construction works, as buildings settle."

Other issues raised by Goodricke residents include the major security risk of doors not shutting properly in some of the accommodation blocks. Charlotte

Evans, a first-year Goodricke student, also highlighted the issue of electricity cut offs, stating: "The electricity always cuts out which is pretty annoying. The University is always quick to respond but the problem keeps happening."

She continued: "Lots of the plugs in the kitchen keep breaking as well, so we had to move the microwaves to the corridor... these problems are such a nuisance."

Shepherd Construction said: "Since we completed the Goodricke College project we have been working very closely with the University to resolve all defects which have occurred and we are currently actively working to resolve many of the issues raised, as promptly as possible."

The University commented: "As with all new buildings there are items that need some form of remedial work to enable the building to function as planned and this has been the case for Goodricke."

"We will continue to keep the kitchens under review. We will carry out an inspection with Shepherds before the start of next term and any significant defects will be repaired. Shepherds have been very responsive to the matters we have raised and we are sure this will continue."



Cracked walls and hot kitchens have left residents in discomfort

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