

Changing rooms!

Steve Rowe chats to a couple who bought a pre-owned park home and completely renovated it, from the chassis to the roof, with the help of park home specialists. These included long-established, Staffordshire-based company Rapide Services, which fitted a modern kitchen, bathroom and en-suite washroom...

When the chance to buy a brand-new park home fell through at the last moment, same-sex married couple Dawn and Stef Wilbraham-Hemmings decided to buy a used park home on the same park, with the view to completely renovating it to their own taste.

It's a decision which has paid off in spades, since their home now looks as

good as any new park home, but at much less cost and finished off to their exact requirements.

The complete works included chassis renovations and new exterior cladding on the outside, but the most impressive changes are on the inside, where specialists Rapide Services fitted a new kitchen, bathroom and en suite washroom, which were decorated to Dawn and Stef's modern tastes.

'We met in 2001'

Keen to find out more about this renovation we chatted to Dawn, who was full of enthusiasm for the renovated home. We started by asking about her background and she explained: "I met Stef in 2001 and we had a civil partnership in 2006, then getting married in 2013 when the law allowing same-sex marriages was passed. I used to work as a graphic designer but now I am a



BEFORE

● Here's the rather dated looking 1980s bathroom before renovation work started



AFTER

● A shot of the renovated washroom showing the twin 'hers and hers' sinks



AFTER

● The small en-suite washroom was also renovated, including a new toilet and wash basin unit



BEFORE

● Here's the old, rather dated looking kitchen before renovation work started. The room was opened up into the small utility room at the end, to make a larger space



DURING

● You can see here where Denis and his team have started to rip out the old kitchen



AFTER

● A shot of the finished kitchen which looks amazing - full of modern and contemporary appliances which are all hidden away neatly behind doors

lecturer at Coventry University, teaching advanced Paramedics for the NHS. Stef used to work for the police but now she works for a funeral directors: so, between us, we've got both life and death covered!

"Before moving to our park home we were living in a modern apartment but we both have a taste for unusual living and the thought of our own, detached park home on a quiet site was very appealing. My parents live in a park home so I knew all about the lifestyle, so we decided to look for one of our own. We found a lovely brand-new home on Oaktree Farm Park (in Earlswood, West Midlands) but unfortunately this was sold on the day we finally had an offer on our old flat, so we missed out on it. Our estate agent suggested buying a used home on the park and renovating it to our own tastes instead. We thought this might not be a bad idea so we bought a pre-owned home on the park, which was built in 1989. The previous owners had looked after it but the décor was quite dated so we decided to give the home a complete renovation, both on the outside and inside.

"Rapide Services had a good reputation so we approached company owner Denis Stanton who came over to quote on fitting a new bathroom and en suite washroom to our bedroom. He listened to our exacting requirements and, together, we put together a plan for the renovation work and he got started.

"We were so happy with his work on the bathroom and en suite that we then commissioned him to refit our kitchen.

"This part of the home previously consisted on a tiny utility room and a dated looking kitchen. Denis suggested that we knocked both into one, to make a large kitchen. We opted for a very modern design, with all the appliances built-in and hidden away from view when not in use."

We asked Dawn what she thought of the couple's home, now that it's fully renovated. She concluded: "We are very pleased with the quality of workmanship from Rapide Services and we're happy that Denis was so flexible and happy to work with some of our more off-beat ideas.

"We've got exactly the home we wanted, decorated completely to our own taste, so we're really happy.

