

No power for nine months

By IAN SHEPHERD

A NEW life in Cyprus has turned sour for owners of eight new villas at Alsancak who have been without electricity for around nine months after a series of delays in completing their dream homes.

Wrangles with site developers Capstone Construction over finishing building work on the villas have dragged on since March, 2005 — the month completion was due.

Kim Pavey, 64, who lives in one of the properties with husband Dave, 69, said: 'Pictures taken in March last year showed our villa was nowhere near completion. We were then promised that it would definitely be finished by the end of May.

'We believed that promise, gave up our jobs in Stevenage and came over, ready to take possession.

'We were shocked to discover that, among many other things not completed, there was no roof, no bathroom, no water or electric.

'There was no alternative but to rent, which we did for three months before running out of money. We then moved into our house with the builders' permission in August, stressing that we were not accepting the house as it stood.

'Electricity was promised within two weeks. And electricity has been promised within two weeks ever since.'

Like the other villas, the Pavey's property still has no electricity, except that provided by a generator which they say they could not really afford to run through the winter.

'We live close to the mountains where it is dark and very cold from around 3.30pm until 8.30am in the



DARK DAYS: Kim and Dave Pavey still have no electricity

winter," said Mrs Pavey. "Four or five hours of generator use a day costs £60 a week and I had to find a part-time job during the winter to help pay that.

"We can't store food without a fridge and so must shop every day, which involves extra expense.

"We came here for a relaxed, unstressed life but it has all been a miserable experience — and one that looks as if it will continue for a lot longer."

Mr and Mrs Pavey say that every few weeks they contact Manur Dorath, the lawyer for Capstone Construction, to see if there is any further news of when their home will be connected to mains electricity. "We are always told that it will be sorted out the following week or in two weeks, but it never is," said Mrs Pavey.

When contacted by *Cyprus Today* this week, Mr Dorath said: 'There were delays in completing the villas, but they are all finished now. A lot of the trouble was due to the fact that the builders were less experienced when work started than they are now.

"As far as the electricity supply is concerned, we have been negotiating with Kib-Tek over the price of installing this. They wanted £58,000 more than their original price to do this but we agreed in the end to pay a further £38,000.

"The final £8,000 will be paid imminently and all the villas should be supplied with electricity within a week or two."

There were no one available from the electricity board to comment on the issue.