

THIS ISSUE - first ever 'eco-homes excellent' development in central London, £500 for gossip, filming takes place at Angell Town, development top of class for innovation, managers of the future? new starters, promotions, transfers and graduating staff.

link

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the monthly Higgins Group news update

Swan Housing Award Eco-Tower to Higgins

Following an extensive competition Swan Housing Group has awarded Higgins Homes the 'Streamlight' development (aka Alberta House).

'Streamlight' will be one of the first ever 'eco-homes excellent' developments in central London and the scheme has been the subject of a very protracted planning process undergoing several revisions.

The revised proposal following extensive consultation, consists of 3 blocks with double aspect apartments with balconies, serviced by three separate entrances. There is also a 24 storey sleek tower block which will contain smaller apartments with balconies.

All the homes will be eco friendly with an EcoHomes rating of Excellent which means that the heating and hot water bills for residents will be very low and the



homes will also be built to Lifetime Homes standards.

The scheme includes high quality play areas for young people and toddlers and a community space. There will also be a retail unit at the base of the tower block.

LABC Award

The former Denbigh school site, in Bletchley, Milton Keynes won the Best Access/ Disability Innovation gong at the LABC Central Region Built in Quality Awards – which recognise the importance of building control in achieving high standards.

Working in partnership with Affinity Sutton, on behalf of William Sutton Homes and Milton Keynes Council, Higgins Construction have developed the unique timber framed designed homes providing a mixture of affordable one and two bedroom flats for shared ownership and properties for rent.

The two acre development also features two specially designed wheelchair-friendly bungalows and all meet the Lifetimes Homes standard and are easily capable of further adaptation and achieved a 'very good' rating according to the EcoHomes standard.



Chris Lumm and Steve Small from Higgins Construction

Anne Vincent, 68, who lives with her husband Ron in one of the specially designed bungalows, said:

“My husband is a wheelchair user and our new home has improved our quality of life massively especially for my husband. It doesn't matter what he wants to do or where he wants to go, it is all accessible. He loves cooking and we are now spending so much more time in the garden”

Higgins

Higgins Homes steps up to help first time buyers

With the number of new loans for first-time buyers dropping by 36% in one year, getting on the housing ladder is becoming increasingly difficult. But there is light at the end of the tunnel. Higgins Homes has recently launched its **Step Up** initiative at its stylish developments, Ice in Stevenage and The Imperial Apartments and The Forum in Colchester. **Step Up** allows purchasers to buy 100% of their new property for just 75% of the cost. Jeremy Marcus, Sales and Marketing Director, Higgins Homes, comments: "This is a fantastic scheme for first time buyers as Higgins Homes will in effect loan them 25% of the value of their property for up to 10 years. Purchasers can then either buy back the 25% share from Higgins Homes at the market price at any time during the 10-year period. Or, if the purchaser sells their property during the 10-year period, pay the 25% back to Higgins Homes at the market price current at the time. There is also no rent to pay on the loan."

For further information please contact:

Ice, Stevenage **01438 362712**
 Imperial Apartments, Colchester - **01206 710983**
 The Forum, Colchester - **01206 790585**



Higgins Construction

Angell Town

Angell Town Community Project director Thomas Esterine, along with resident-poet Brannigan, was recently interviewed by a Brazilian TV crew for a special report on green buildings. Angell Town is a £67m regeneration project completed by Higgins Construction for Lambeth Council. This was initially going to be a ten minute report on the project but following the interview the crew were so impressed that they are dedicating the whole show to Angell Town which will be aired shortly.

This project is recognised as an exemplar of estate regeneration and has won over 20 industry awards.

We are also delighted that Higgins is currently the main contractor for three more housing projects in Lambeth to the value of £141 million.



Huntingfields

Client: Saffron Housing Trust
Value: £5 million

Councillor Mowle, Norwich District Council, recently celebrated Higgins Construction's first development in Norfolk at a 'topping out' ceremony. This was attended by staff and stakeholders, including Age Concern and Saffron. This development provides a state-of-the-art resource centre for the elderly, providing sheltered homes, respite care beds and daycare services. A key element of this project is that 40% of the homes have been earmarked for people with physical disabilities.



Keep on gossiping...

Keep on telling us the gossip on tenders and you could win £500!
 Last year we received a total of 702 'Tender Gossips' - lets see if we can beat that this year - make sure you keep your Manager informed of gossip!

Welcome

We would like to welcome **Keith Briggs**, Preconstruction Director (Designate), who joined Higgins Construction on 1st July and is based in the office opposite the Training Room, please make him welcome.



Promotions

Congratulations to the following on your recent promotions: **Sean Robinson** promoted to Managing Surveyor, **Ian Byrne** promoted to Managing Surveyor, **Adrian Kelly** promoted to Team Leader Surveyor, **Glen Roberts** promoted to Associate Director (within Construction), **Stephen Bailess** promoted to Associate Director (within Pre-Construction), **Colin Chatfield** promoted to Managing Buyer, **Gary Scannell** promoted to Managing Buyer, **Matt Hilson** promoted to Snr Contract Surveyor, **Steve Quinn** promoted to Contract Surveyor, **Russell Groves** promoted to Site Agent, **Tom Dring** promoted to Assistant Project Co-ordinator, **Samantha James** promoted to Assistant Business Development Manager and **Susan Andrews** Promoted to Submissions Coordinator.

Transfers

The following staff have recently transferred to progress their careers in different areas: **Luke Lawrence** transferred from Higgins Homes to Higgins Construction to become a Trainee Buyer, **Michael Quinn** transferred from Higgins Homes to Higgins Construction to become a Trainee Surveyor, **Debra Green** will be transferring from Higgins Group Services to HR Construction full time (she is currently working part time between Construction and Group Services).

Golf winners

A winning 4-ball took part in a Charity Golf Day hosted by East Thames Housing Group in support of a sensory room being developed at a school in East London. Congratulations to **Jim Mutter**, **Joe Leedham**, **Alan Walker** and **Steve Leakey** who contributed to such a worthwhile day.

30 years service

Our special thanks and congratulations go to **Gordon Croom** who celebrates 30 years with Higgins. Gordon has played a part in key developments across the whole of the business throughout his career.



Could these be the managers of the future?

Both **Sean Robinson** and **Marc Owen** have recently become proud fathers.

Sean has a new daughter named Molly who was born weighing in at 7lb 10oz, a beautiful sister for Izzy and Marc is the proud dad of a baby boy, Joshua William Owen, who arrived weighing 9lb 7oz



Graduating staff

Congratulations to; **Katy Neve**, **Stuart Brown**, **Andy Thomson** and **Steve Watters** who have all successfully graduated part time courses with BSc Degrees, a great achievement to study for a degree whilst working full time. A special mention must go to Steve Watters as he was awarded First Class Honours.

Congratulations to...

Stuart Tomlin recently proposed to his girlfriend **Lorna** whilst on holiday in Miami We look forward to hearing about the wedding plans!



Quiz night results

A great night was had by all at the recent Quiz Night, the winners and losers as follows: In first place - **'The Telly Gents'**, second place - **'The Barnet Boys'**, third place - **'The Brockley Six'** and in last place **'Fat Kids Always Win at See Saw'**

A big thank you to our quiz master Charles Green who did a fantastic job. Well done to all and thank you all for your support, a raffle raised £62.00 which has been donated to the charity **'Vitalise'**

We hope the information provided in this newsletter is clear and easily understandable, but should you require any further clarification, please contact: **020 8502 8398**

If you would like a copy of Link in large print, Braille, on CD or in your language, please contact Sam James, sam.james@higginsconstruction.co.uk