

THIS ISSUE - a new year begins, more blood donated, who has got new jobs?, who gossips the most? good news for first time buyers, project completions and announcements, who has served 10 years? looking out for community safety and is there a bit of rivalry between fishermen?

link

January 09 issue 17

the monthly Higgins Group news update

Welcome to 2009!

Happy New Year to everyone and we hope that you have had an excellent festive break. We thank you for your hard work and commitment and look forward to working together and achieving great successes in these very challenging times.

Planning for the future



Paul Cooke



Keith Briggs



Phil Burrows



Glen Roberts

As part of the future succession planning, and to establish strong foundations for the Group going forward, there have been some significant changes in Higgins Construction management.

We are pleased to announce that **Steve Leakey** will take the role of Managing Director Designate. Over the next 18 months Steve will be working alongside Benny King to ensure a smooth transition into this pivotal role.

To further strengthen the team **Keith Briggs** has been promoted to Director of Pre-Construction and **Paul Cooke's** role has been expanded



Steve Leakey

to include responsibility for QA and sustainability. **Phil Burrows** has transferred from Higgins Homes to Higgins Construction as a Construction Director and brings with him a greater understanding of the needs of private sale developments and **Glen Roberts** has been promoted to Construction Director Designate.

We wish the aforementioned continued success in their new positions.

Blood Donation Service...

Thank you to everyone who took the time to donate blood on the 14th. This session saw many more 'first time donors' and leading by example was Richard Higgins. With every drop that is donated making such a difference to peoples' lives we are extremely proud that we beat the number of people who attended to donate than our last session. So well done to everyone involved.



Higgins

Higgins Homes First time buyers take advantage of cheap house prices

Islington policeman Charles Mutuku and his wife, Gosia have taken advantage of the recent house price drop and amazing new homes deals, and bought their first new home just before their first daughter, Alicja, was born.

Charles, 32, and Gosia, 31 had previously rented a one bedroom apartment in Stratford, but as their needs changed, the house market fall enabled them to buy their first home together. The couple chose a Higgins Homes property in 'Uber' which is a contemporary development in the heart of Walthamstow.

Charles comments: "When we found out our daughter was on the way, we knew it was time to find somewhere more permanent to live and to pay money into a family home each month, rather than the pocket of our landlord. We have taken full advantage of the house price crash and the amazing deals that have sprung up with it. "We were able to buy a two bedroom, two bathroom apartment with the Step Up* scheme which allowed us to borrow 25% of the property's value from Higgins Homes and pay it back over a 10 year period. Without that scheme and the price reductions, we would not have been able to afford such a spacious and modern home, and we were really surprised with the help we received. I was thrilled to be able to bring our daughter back to our very own home and I'm very happy to finally be on the property ladder."



Charles, Gosia and baby Alicja Mukutu

Higgins Construction We would like to thank everyone in the following completions



Sinclair House: Budget: £14 million
An existing office block was demolished to enable the construction of two new medium rise blocks for mixed use tenure. Working with A2 Dominion we have delivered 20 residential flats in 5 storeys and commercial office accommodation in one of the blocks and 88 residential flats over 12 floors in the other block.

Sinclair House office accommodation

Forest Road
Budget: £6.2 million
This innovative project involved the demolition of an existing petrol station and the construction of 47 mixed tenure flats and maisonettes, including 4 units for residents with wheelchairs. Despite the site being classed as 'heavily contaminated' the project has received an EcoHomes rating of 'Very Good'.



Forest Road



Ebony Court
We are also pleased to announce that the S106 Agreement for Ebony Court site has been signed and we have now formally been granted our Planning Approval by LB Brent.
The detailed design of this scheme is progressing well and we are on programme to demolish the existing building mid March 2009 with a Construction Start On Site at the beginning of June 2009.

WELCOMES

We would like to welcome **Gemma Wright** who is now on a 6 month contract as Hawke Administrator.

VACANCIES

| Vacancy | Department/site | Homes/Construction | HRA |
|-----------------------|-----------------|--------------------|-------------|
| After Sales Operative | Site | Construction | Debra Green |

START GOSSIPING

Let's start the New Year by gossiping... As your department head will have told you the tender gossip initiative has been re vamped for 2009, instead of concentrating on the individual we are now looking for interdepartmental rivalry to increase interest and staff involvement. Each department has been set a monthly target to promote leads and opportunities.

| Department | Monthly Target | Department | Monthly Target |
|--------------------------|----------------|-----------------|----------------|
| Contracts Management | 32pts | Procurement | 16pts |
| Pre-Con Cost Management | 20pts | Site Management | 36pts |
| Pre-Con Design Mgmt | 70pts | Support/Admin | 4pts |
| Pre-Con Development Mgmt | 40pts | Surveying | 40pts |
| | | Total | 258pts |

All leads to be evaluated and rated on the basis of:- New relevant lead (4pts), Update on lead already in the system (2pts) and Non - relevant lead (work type/location etc) 1pt

Results to be published monthly by email.
Annual incentive for the most successful member of staff within each department.

HIGGINS STAFF HELP HOSPICE

Many Higgins staff decided not to send Christmas cards this year and instead donated the money that they would have spent to charity. This raised £1,165.00 which has been donated to St Clare Hospice and will go towards the great work that they do. Well done to all involved - what a great idea.

DID YOU KNOW

Last month's 'did you know?' has developed an interesting bit of rivalry in the company!!

Following the article on **Rob Charnocks'** love of fishing it has come to our attention that **Kenny Blackman** was featured in Carp Talk magazine and won 1st prize for the season. The Carp took an hour and twenty minutes to land and weighed a massive 50lbs 6oz - a proper construction department size fish and not a 'Tesco No frills prawn in comparison!!'

"I've been doing carp fishing for just over 32 years. It takes me to a lot of different locations, from France to



Spain, and gets me away from all the stress in life. It is very peaceful just sitting by a lake not knowing what will on the end of your rods, the biggest one I've caught was an 88lb cat fish just over 3 years ago it took 1 hour and 30 mins to bring to the bank."

CONGRATULATIONS

Mark Freeman has passed his 'Level 3 Award in First Line Management' with the 'Institute of Leadership and Management (ILM)'

A lot of hard work and commitment went into this, congratulations to Mark.

We also want to pass on our congratulations to **Chris Mooney**, Market Estate Contract, has just passed his driving test - well done Chris.

LONG SERVICE

Steven Thomas celebrates 10 years at Higgins and our thanks are sent to him for his hard work and commitment.



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