

THIS ISSUE - who is starting off on a new journey? dates for the staff presentation, what has been demolished?, fantastic opportunities on new homes, which development is topping out?, lots of celebrations and congratulations and who is leading the gossip table?

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the monthly Higgins Group news update

## New Beginnings...

**After 32 years of dedicated, committed, loyal service Jim Mutter is now saying 'goodbye' and starting a new and exciting journey...**

**There has been three key influences in my career, my father, who taught me the principles of life, Derek Higgins, who has had a huge impact in my working career and of course all the loyal support of my wife** Said Jim

Jim joined DJ Higgins and Sons in 1976 as a Chief Buyer and has been part of the team as the company has grown into the successful Group that it is today. Seeing many changes over the years he is extremely proud, and it is a testament to his length of service, that the company has been true to the same disciplines that were set up by Derek Higgins.

Jim came from a construction background and found a true passion for procurement in his career ensuring that this was always given a high profile within the decision making process. Advocating this process has developed many open, fair and honest trading relationships, which have encouraged huge loyalty with our supply chain. This has played an important role within the Group, enabling an open, professional commercial approach and we thank Jim for making sure that the foundations of this ethos are firmly embedded within the organisation.

It has been the 'go-ahead' innovative direction of the business and professional colleagues and friends that has inspired Jim to continue to be driven in all aspects of his career. Seeing the many opportunities that the Group offers to young people and watching them being supported and nurtured reflects the commitment that the Group has to developing the best managers of the future. Jim's banter, fun loving nature and 'policing of ties' has always brightened up the office, along with the knowledge that he was also there to listen and support colleagues - but I am sure there is



someone in the wings waiting to take over the 'policing' role!!

Golfing, walking, holidays, fishing, enjoying time with his wife and family are only a few of the things that Jim will fill his time with once he sets off on his "new beginnings"

"I would like to thank absolutely everyone I have worked with. I am extremely fortunate that I have seen many young people join the Company and grow in both experience and qualities. I would like to pass on my sincere thanks and best wishes to the Higgins family and my co-directors for believing in me and supporting me throughout my career. This is a fantastic company to work for - the drive of business continues and there are many great opportunities that I know will be achieved by the excellent staff working together."

**I am very proud to say that Jim has been a good friend and work colleague through good and bad times for over 30 years. I would like to pass on many thanks and wish him best wishes in everything he has planned for his 'new start', from myself personally, and from everyone at Higgins Group.** Benny King, Managing Director.

# Higgins

## Higgins Homes Property investors keep it in the family

The turbulence in the property market might have decreased the number of buyers, but some investors are seeing the current price reductions as fantastic opportunities. Vish Dhall, his brother's Rakk and Nazz, and their property investor father, are sharing the cost of property investment and taking advantage of the reduced competition and lower prices.

The Dhall family's most recent purchase is a stunning penthouse at ICE in Stevenage. Vish and his brother Rakk will live there until Vish gets married next year, and his new wife will move in. At that time, the family will look to buy another property for Rakk and their other brother, Nazz, to live in, gradually building up their property portfolio.



Vish Dhall and his brother's Rakk and Nazz

**"Although many people have shied away from the current property market, I can only see fantastic opportunities. Because I am buying with my father and brother, we are splitting the risk, making the lending and buying process a lot easier. My father has always invested in property as he believes it has the best long term rewards, and I agree with him. "When I first saw the penthouse at ICE I completely fell in love with it. I had searched all over The City and Canary Wharf and had never seen such great value for money. It is unique in its design and lay-out and in a very up-and-coming area. The long term investment possibilities are extremely exciting because Stevenage is undergoing a lot of regeneration. We were also very impressed with the professionalism and high standards that Higgins Homes employed throughout the sale, so they will definitely be our first point of call when we look to buy again!"**

Said Vish, a 26 year old trainee barrister in London

**Prices at ICE start from £149,950 for a one bedroom apartment and £169,950 for a two bedroom, two bathroom apartment with balcony. The MyChoiceHomeBuy scheme is also available at this development**

## Higgins Construction

### Making room for affordable homes at Coton with a big bang

Wherry Housing knocked down the final two houses in Silverdale Avenue, Coton, Cambridge, marking the final stage of the Airey redevelopment project.

Higgins Construction has been the contractor on the entire programme and has already redeveloped three estates; Sawston, Girton and Elsworth, creating 99 affordable new homes in the area.

The redevelopment is due to be completed at the end of 2009. The new Coton residents will benefit from reduced fuel bills and other efficiency savings from living in code level 3 sustainable homes, which have been designed in a modern country style.



**"We are pleased to be starting the final phase of the Airey property redevelopment scheme which will provide much needed affordable housing in Coton, particularly in the current economic climate."**

Said Cllr Charlie Nightingale, who will be attending the demolition.

## The Quadrant

We are delighted to announce that the £34.4 million development we are working in partnership with Presentation Social Investment Agency to deliver has reached 'topping out' stage. This includes 271 apartments for mixed tenure use and integrates with retail units and a basement car park. Many thanks to everyone involved in this project.

RIGHT: Computer generated image of the Quadrant



## New partnership agreed...

You may have heard that the Board of the Presentation Group has chosen Notting Hill Housing Association as its preferred partner. This partnership will strengthen the long-term business plans of both associations and secure the continuation of improved services to residents. This decision does not affect our work with Presentation Group.

The vision and approach of both organisations are closely aligned. There is also an excellent strategic fit

between the core areas of operation as well as the growth and development plans of both organisations.

The two organisations are in discussions with the regulator and expect a formal agreement early in the summer. Presentation has over 6,000 homes in management and development, bringing the total for the new Group to over 25,000. Presentation will become a subsidiary of Notting Hill.

## WELCOMES

We are pleased to welcome back Jo Hilson (nee Savill) who re-joined Higgins Group this month as an After Sales Co-ordinator.

## DATES OF THE STAFF PRESENTATIONS

The Annual Staff Presentations will be held on **Tues 31st March, Wed 1st April** and **Thurs 2nd April**.

There will be a light buffet served from 1:30pm and the presentation will be concluded by 4pm.

The parking arrangements will be

the same as previous years, with site staff parking at the Academy Sports Ground and a mini bus service to and from the office.

You will be receiving letters shortly informing you of your allocated day.

## SUPPORTING TEENAGE CANCER TRUST

**Ryan Manning**, Bid Management Trainee - Pre Construction, would like to thank everyone who sponsored him in his recent 2 mile

swim for the Teenage Cancer Trust. He successfully completed the swim in 1 hour 27 minutes - many congratulations Ryan.

**If you would like to contribute to the collection please contact Ryan on [ryan.manning@higginsconstruction.co.uk](mailto:ryan.manning@higginsconstruction.co.uk)**

## A HUGE THANK YOU

**“The support of the staff at Higgins Group is very much appreciated, and I would like to convey our thanks to everyone involved.**

**The nursing staff at St Clare Hospice treats each patient as an individual, taking time to listen to their needs and concerns. Thank you again for your continued kind support, which will go directly towards the continued care of our patients and their families.”**

St Claire Hospice

## DOUBLE CELEBRATION

Congratulations to **Mike Waller** who has passed his MSc in Construction Management with a distinction. Also, Mike is now a qualified Code for Sustainable Homes Assessor - well done Mike.

## LONG SERVICE

Congratulations and thanks go to **Mick Hampson**, Senior Site Agent who is celebrating 20 years service and **Jeff Joseph**, Community Development Manager, and **Errol Rowe** who have both completed 10 years working for the Higgins Group.



## ‘A PRINCE IS BORN’

Congratulations to **Diane Prince** who has had a baby boy called Charles Henry David weighing a very healthy 9lbs!



## CONGRATULATIONS

**Kwame Aino** is pleased to announce the birth of Joash Aino born on 13th December 2008 a healthy 8lb 2oz.



## START GOSSIPING

We are pleased to see the new tender gossip initiative off and running. Challenging targets have been set and we encourage all members of staff to take part in the coming months.

Department	Tot	Target	Department	Tot	Target
Pre Con Cost Mgmt	4	20	Surveying	14	40
Pre-Con Design Mgmt	38	70	Procurement	17	16
Pre-Con Development			Site Mgmt	0	36
Mgmt	35	40	Support	0	4
Contracts Mgmt	52	32			

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](mailto:sam.james@higginsconstruction.co.uk)**