

THIS ISSUE - buying land and looking forward to growth in 2010, who are we working in partnership with to deliver skills for life?, continuing to consider the environment as we build new homes, the end of a successful 6 year programme, don't miss out on the free draw and help us make the best impression.

link

February 2010 issue 30

the monthly Higgins Group news update

Higgins Homes welcomes a significant turning point

There has been plenty of talk about the changes businesses will need to make if they are to see growth in 2010. We are delighted to report that Higgins Homes has faced these challenges, is confident in the market, and has purchased a site at Bow Common Lane, Bow - the first land to be purchased since the downturn in the market.



Bow Common Lane, Bow, E3

Until our purchase this brownfield site, that has a partially constructed concrete frame on it, was a reflection of the hard times the industry had experienced and had been lying dormant for months. However, we are now injecting a lifeline into this site and will deliver 157 stylish, environmentally friendly, high quality homes. The significance of this purchase is made all the more successful as Higgins

Construction will be delivering the project - a great joint venture to start the year.

“it is good to be back buying sites, and continuing as a successful constructor and house builder in 2010”

Said Steve Hancocks - Higgins Homes Development Director

Education business partnerships

As part of our Corporate Social Responsibility strategy and our commitment to the communities in which we work, Higgins Construction is working with Education Providers to help give young people valuable skills for life.

We are participating in programmes with the Islington 14-19 Partnership and the Epping 14-19 Consortium to help shape their new Construction and Engineering Diplomas.

Alongside the Diplomas, we are developing a broad range of interaction opportunities to help the development of young people to encourage an interest in careers within the Construction Industry.

If you know someone who could benefit from these Partnerships, or you would like to discuss them further please email Paul Cooke on paul.cooke@higginsconstruction.co.uk

Initiatives we currently use in these Business Education Partnership arenas, or are in the process of developing with these partnerships, include:

- Careers information
- Teacher placements
- Mock interviews
- Employability (presenting yourself days)
- Work simulations or role plays (sometimes known as 'industry days')
- Curriculum-linked workplace visits
- Work experience
- Workshops
- Work shadowing
- Resource development
- Face to face mentoring
- E-mentoring

Higgins

Higgins Homes Cutting carbon in 2010

Higgins Homes are already ahead of the game in respect of the challenge set by the new Government targets. These will require 100% of all new properties to meet new stringent energy targets, aligned to the Code for Sustainable Homes.

In this environmentally and socially aware culture Higgins Homes has been designing to high ecological standards on a number of developments, which in turn has helped to reduce our carbon footprint.

Malcolm Wallace, Head of Design, Higgins Homes, comments: "Higgins Homes has consistently been at the forefront of modern design and by adhering to governmental guidelines - we are continuing to take the initiative. The global challenges we are facing need to be addressed, and housing in the UK needs to be more ecologically efficient.

"We are now using some really exciting energy saving technology in some of our new developments, such as heat pumps, heat recovery systems and solar panels for creating hot water. These methods not only cut carbon but they also cut fuel bills, and



The Old Hospital, Maidstone

purchasers will reap the benefits.

"Creating contemporary, high quality, environmentally friendly housing at affordable prices, is not an easy task, however with developments such as The Old Hospital and Surrex Grange, we are already achieving this."



Surrex Grange, Coggeshall



Higgins Construction

Celebrations at the final phase of a successful 6 year programme



Higgins Construction PLC has worked in partnership with Circle Anglia Housing Association and other partners to redevelop a number of post-war, pre-fabricated Airey Houses. Celebrations were recently held for the completion of 28 much needed affordable homes at Silverdale Avenue, Coton. This celebration marks the fourth and final stage of the Airey

redevelopment project, which has seen the delivery of a total of 99 new homes for the community.

This new development of 28 energy-efficient properties includes; 16 two-bed houses, nine three-bed houses, two one-bed houses and one four-bed house. Of these, 18 houses are for rent and 10 are for shared ownership, giving opportunities for local people to get on the property ladder.

These homes will provide the new residents with:

- Reduced fuel bills and other efficiency savings from living in code level 3 sustainable homes
- Energy efficient light fittings and
- Water saving fixtures and fittings.



