

THIS ISSUE - why did BRE need our help?, making sure we pass on information, what you thought of the staff presentations, heartfelt thanks written in a letter, where is the up and coming hot spot?, what has IS been developing to help us work? working with a charity and join in the festive fun!

# link

November 2010 issue 39

the monthly Higgins Group news update

## Completion of first 'Retrofit' scheme

With the new targets set by the Government to achieve an 80% carbon reduction by 2050 we are delighted that Higgins Construction were chosen to deliver two pilot schemes. We are working with Swan Housing Group on a property in Forest Gate and have just completed our first ever retrofit in partnership with Greenfields Community Housing in Halstead. Both projects will provide valuable information regarding the challenges, options, cost and on-ongoing benefits and are being used by the BRE to help develop its new BREEAM Domestic Refurbishment Assessment Tool they



will also establish us within the sector as a leader in this area - many thanks to everyone involved in these exciting projects.

## Retrofit conference

To establish a platform to discuss the new approaches and working practices that will be required to deliver efficient retrofit projects, we recently held a conference in partnership with Martin Associates. The purpose of this event was to inform clients how they could achieve the required outcomes. This is a topic that is extremely current at the present time and with our

recent experience of delivering cost effective improvements in property performance to reduce water and energy consumption, reduce carbon emissions, improve standards of living and reduce energy and maintenance costs the conference had a record attendance - with only standing room at the back! Congratulations to our presenter Allan Ronald!

## Staff presentations

"Thank you to everyone for making this years Higgins Staff Presentation a success. It was great that for the first time everyone was able to attend Head Office and have the opportunity to discuss the presentations directly with Managers and Directors. Thank you for taking the time to complete the survey on the event and opposite is a summary of answers that you gave. The full presentation, along with your comments, is available on the ECM for your further information and if you would like to discuss any of this in more detail, please contact your Manager who will be pleased to help."

### Number of speakers...

Too Many 8, Just Right 67, Not Enough 2



### Length of presentation...

Too Long 9, Just Right 69, Too Short 0



### Did you find the presentation easy to understand...

Yes 78, No 1



### Was there any other subject you would have liked to have been covered...

Yes 13, No 63



### Do you think this is worth continuing as an annual event...

Yes 76, No 1



# Higgins

## Higgins Homes Bow the next 'up and coming' London village

Bow is on the up - and amongst the vast regeneration of this spectacularly located London village, a new development of executive city homes is being created by Higgins Homes.

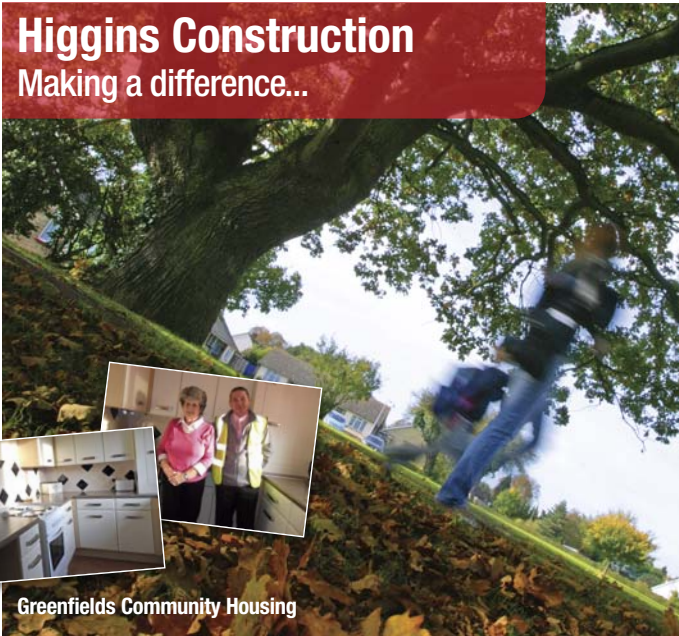
Aqua Vista is the new Higgins Homes development, located in Bow Common Lane, E3. The development was launched in October and will see the first occupations move in next summer.

**"Although we are expecting most of the home buyers of Aqua Vista to be sold to owner occupiers, this is a spectacular development in terms of its investment potential. It has everything going for it - the apartments are superbly appointed and the development's location is fantastically close to Canary Wharf (eight minutes by DLR), the City and the 2012 Olympic venue. Bow is an up and coming London 'Hot Spot', and due to the regeneration currently underway, the capital growth potential of the new homes is very exciting."** commented Jeremy Marcus, Sales and Marketing Director of Higgins Homes



Prices at Aqua Vista start from £169,950. For more information contact Karolina or Janette at the marketing suite on 020 7515 6383

## Higgins Construction Making a difference...



Greenfields Community Housing

With our busy days and demanding schedules we sometimes forget what a real difference our work can make to the residents of the houses that we work on. It is therefore even more rewarding when a resident takes the time to write in to let us know the huge impact that we make.

Working with Greenfields Community Housing we have recently completed works on a bungalow and the daughter wanted to let us know how pleased both her and her mother were with the finished results.

She has since been buying bits and pieces and has ongoing plans for what

she is going to do with her lovely new home.

The extra help that the team committed by helping to move furniture back in place made a big difference, Greenfields Community Housing have passed on their sincere thanks and appreciation to the team for a great job. Well done, what fantastic feedback!

**"She was absolutely delighted with it and so pleased that she was home. It took me ages to get her to the kitchen as she was so busy marveling at the new decoration! When she saw the kitchen, her jaw dropped - I think she was actually speechless for a few seconds."**

## Information Systems (IS) ...at the core of construction

Field	Value	Action
Contract name	Forest Gate	
Contract No.	0000	
Programme ref.	001 (0000)	
Week No.	00	
Week commencing	00/00/2010	
Senior site person	Richard Dunmore	Select Name
Site manager	Alan Clavin	Select Name
	Richard Dunmore	Select Name
	Alan Clavin	Select Name
	Alan Clavin	Select Name
Project of interest	Alan Clavin	Select Name
Health and Safety	Richard Dunmore	Select Name
Plant Hire	Alan Clavin	Select Name
Contract manager	Alan Clavin	Select Name
Contract duration	00/00/2010 - 00/00/2010	Select Date

Over the past few months the IS team has been developing new ways to make reporting of information from site easier, consistent and more streamlined. The new solution, Weekly Site Reports, will replace the 1-6 Site Diaries.

**"Now that the teething problems have been sorted out, this system, if used correctly will save a lot of time, effort and paper"**

**Nick Koster**, Contracts Manager Forest Gate

To start the process and to get the information we needed we consulted from board level all the way to those on site who would be using it on a daily basis. The aim was to create a user friendly, semi-automated system that increases efficiency, removes the risk of duplication and allows a knowledge

base to be shared from site to site. This process dramatically removes the amount of needless paper work and helps us to "be kind" to the environment.

**"This is a very effective method of recording site information and once mastered this is an easy system to manage"**

**Richard Dunmore**, Senior Site Manager Forest Gate

We have piloted this "new way of working" at Forest Gate and Craylands Sites and the feedback from both teams has been positive and they speak highly of the benefits it brings.

Looking forward to this efficient, time saving solution? It will be coming to a site near you soon!

**"A quick and easy way to obtain much needed information rather than disturbing the site staff."**

**Beverly Perry**, Bought Ledger Supervisor

**"This new innovation to how we record key contractor information will make it easier for site staff, whilst ensuring that we can defend any claims, should the need arise."**

**Glen Roberts**, Construction Director

To contact us call: from site: 020 8498 6500 (Langston Road: Extension number 6500) or e-mail: IShelpdesk

## T'IS THE SEASON TO BE QUIZZING

### Join in the festive fun!

HISS are hosting a Christmas Quiz Night on Wednesday 15th December at the Old Loughtonians Hockey Club.

This is a free event, and there will be mulled wine and mince pies on arrival! Get a team together and join us at 6pm.

Teams of 6 are required and it doesn't matter where you come in the leader board - at the end of the night you get a chicken and chip supper!

It is a great fun night and you get fed too!

**Contact Laura Williams for further details and to register your team.**

## WELCOME

This month we would like to welcome **Phil Burns** who joins us as the new Building Services Manager, **Anderia Lewis** joins the team as an Estimator, both **Christine Paul** and **Lucy Welsh** have taken up positions as RLOs and **Tom Slater** is a new Project Co-ordinator. Starting with Higgins Homes as Sales negotiators are **Karolina Matusik** and **Alex Shaw** and **Catherine Hill** joins their team as a Market Researcher. Wishing you every success in your new roles.

## VACANCIES

Vacancy	Department/site	Homes/Construction	HRA
Secretary	Office	Procurement Department	Elaine Ward

## SWAN FOUNDATION

Higgins is very proud of the contribution that we make to the communities we work in. We are therefore pleased to have been able to support the Swan Foundation that has been set up by Swan Housing Group to improve the quality of life for people in disadvantaged neighbourhoods. With our support the charity can help make

a positive change, remove obstacles that are holding people back, change the way people think and overcome social and economic barriers - having a real affect on peoples' lives. For further information on the good work that is carried out, or if you would like to be involved in any way, you can visit [www.swanfoundation.org.uk](http://www.swanfoundation.org.uk)

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU

We would like to send our best wishes and congratulations to **Carole Pridmore** who recently turned 50 years young. Carole had a special day and her work colleagues joined her for a meal and some bubbly to celebrate.



## A MINUTE WITH... DAVE HERRETT - MAINTENANCE

**Career highlight?** Painting part of Downing Street (ok it was only the lampposts)

### Worst moment of career?

First week at Higgins I destroyed the server room shutter

### Professional inspiration?

My father

### Development/project you would have liked to have been involved with (not just Higgins)?

The building of White Hart Lane

**Best advice?** always read between the lines

**Favourite film?** Silence of the Lambs

**Favourite book?** The far away tree

**Favourite Building?** Taj Mahal

**Favourite Song/Album?** Glory Glory Tottenham Hotspur

### First Song/Album ever bought?

Bone thugs 'n' harmony

**Favourite Restaurant?** The Gables, Old Harlow

### One luxury you will keep despite the credit crunch?

My family Lisa, Freddie and Yasmin

## UPDATE ON THE GOSSIPING LEAGUE

If you wish to email your future tender gossips please send to the following email address [tendergossip@higginsconstruction.co.uk](mailto:tendergossip@higginsconstruction.co.uk)

Department	Target	Tot	Department	Target	Tot
Pre Con Cost Mgmt	30	42	Surveying	40	14
Pre-Con Design Mgmt	64	94	Procurement	16	8
CSR	12	37	Site Mgmt	36	4
Contracts Mgmt	32	16	Support	4	8
			Total	<b>234</b>	<b>223</b>

If you would like a copy of 'link' in large print, Braille, on CD or in your language, please contact Laura Williams, [laura.williams@higginsconstruction.co.uk](mailto:laura.williams@higginsconstruction.co.uk)