

E-Newsletter

September 2010

**Building Futures**

A Hertfordshire guide to promoting sustainability in development

**The September 2010 Building Futures E-newsletter. Your source of Building Futures updates, local sustainable construction and design news, and upcoming events.**

## **Wine Society warehouse receives further accolades**

After winning the inaugural Building Futures *Outstanding Commitment to Adapt to a changing Climate Award 2009*, the Wine Society's prefabricated *Hemcrete* warehouse has scooped this year's RICS East of England *Sustainability Award* and was short listed for the RIBA East *Spirit of Ingenuity Architectural Awards 2010*.

The Wine Society warehouse incorporates innovative technologies, such as *Hemcrete*, within its construction to help manage the risk of overheating posed by climate change. By using these materials and employing other technologies and measures, the development leads the way for buildings that are, traditionally, unsustainable and vulnerable to a changing climate.

The Wine Society warehouse will now go up against 14 other projects for the national RICS *Sustainability Award* at the grand final on 15<sup>th</sup> October 2010, being held at London's Guildhall.



## **New Climate Change Adaptation module**

As part of its continuous development, a new *Climate Change Adaptation* module will soon be added to the Building Futures Guide.

The new module will offer guidance on an increasingly important area for built environment professionals, providing up-to-date information on the risks posed to Hertfordshire by climate change impacts now and in future years; guidance on how to identify and assess the risks posed to Hertfordshire's built environment; and a comprehensive range of solutions that can be applied across different spatial scales and development types.



The module also includes a checklist for built environment professionals to use at the design stage of new developments or retrofit programmes, as well as case studies showcasing industrial, commercial, residential and educational developments covering the solutions identified. A number of these originate from Hertfordshire, for example St Christopher's School, Letchworth and West Herts College campus, Watford.

The *Design* and *Landscape and Biodiversity* modules have also progressed from their draft form to provide the most appropriate and up-to-date guidance for built environment professionals. The *Design* module will be available on the website from the end of September, with the *Landscape and Biodiversity* module being available in October alongside the new *Climate Change Adaptation* module.

## Hertfordshire Building Futures Awards 2011

It is almost a year since the hugely successful inaugural Hertfordshire Building Futures Awards, which brought together Hertfordshire's development industry to celebrate their achievements. Preparations are already underway for the 2011 Awards.



The award categories for the 2011 Awards will remain the same: Design Excellence; Most Sustainable Construction; and Outstanding Commitment to Adapt to a Changing Climate. The Awards are open to any development that has or will be completed between 16 September 2009 and 16 September 2011. A number of exciting projects within Hertfordshire are already catching our attention, with more due to be completed in the next 12 months.

If you know of a completed development or an on-going project eligible for one or more of the Award categories, then tell us about it by emailing us at [buildingfutures@hertsc.gov.uk](mailto:buildingfutures@hertsc.gov.uk)

## Pioneering eco-friendly homes coming soon to Stevenage

Stevenage Borough Council, working in partnership with the Home Group housing association, has committed to the design and construction of eight eco-friendly affordable homes at two former Council owned sites at Peartree Way and Cotney Croft.

The homes were designed to combine distinctive yet functional architecture with the benefits of excellent sustainability solutions and the capacity for 'eco-living'.

It is anticipated that seven of the homes will achieve a Code for Sustainable Homes Level 5 and one a Code Level 6 rating, becoming one of the first residential developments in the country to achieve a level-six rating.



The new homes will also be part of a two-year project to monitor energy and water consumption and the production of electricity from the photovoltaic tiles. This PhD research by Anglia Ruskin University will be led by sustainability expert Terry Keech of Calfordseaden Construction and Property Consultants.

Cllr Ann Webb, Executive Member for Housing at Stevenage Borough Council, said, "We are thrilled to be working in partnership with Home to deliver this exciting project. This development will provide much needed social housing, as well as leading the way in sustainable and eco friendly living. If the funds permitted, I would love to do this all over Stevenage."



The project will be added as a case study to the Building Futures guide shortly, but to find out

more about the project see the full news story on the Building Futures website – [www.hertslink.org/buildingfutures](http://www.hertslink.org/buildingfutures)

## Upcoming Events

CDM and Site Waste Management Plan Training	BRE, Watford 4 Oct 2010
Securing a water-efficient East	Climate East, Cambridge 11 Oct 2010
Sustainable Design	RIBA East, Cambridge 20 Oct 2010
Flood Resilient Planning and Building	BRE, Watford 20 – 21 Oct 2010
National Conference on Urban Design	UDG, Leeds 21 – 23 Oct 2010
Natural Ventilation in Low Energy Buildings	RIBA East, Cambridge 4 Nov 2010
Improving the Energy Performance of Historic Buildings	RIBA East, Cambridge 18 Nov 2010
Part L – Changes in 2010	BRE, Watford 18 Nov 2010