

Full steam ahead for showcase homes

Exciting things are afoot on the site of the Housing Innovation Showcase in Dunfermline, Fife. The development is in Dunlin Drive, where the building of 27 homes, using ten different modern methods of construction, is well underway.

Representatives from the partner organisations involved in delivering the project visited yesterday to see the good progress being made.



Councillor Tony Martin, Chair of Fife Council's Environment Enterprise & Transportation Committee said: "Things are really starting to take shape on site. It's been great to see some of the systems under construction, especially the renewable technologies, as well as meet some of the people benefitting from the work placement and employment opportunities that this project has created."

Councillor Brian Goodall, Chair of Fife Council's Housing & Communities Committee and Fife Housing Partnership added: "An update report on the showcase was warmly welcomed at the last Fife Housing Partnership meeting. It shows there is an increasing expectation to deliver these sorts of innovative systems in affordable

housing to assist tenants with being more energy efficient and help to reduce fuel bills.”

The 27 new homes is phase one of a larger site and they will be available for social rent.

Douglas Gray, Chair of Kingdom Housing Association said: “This is a very exciting project for everyone involved and will demonstrate how the alternative methods of construction can provide improved quality and how it is possible to roll out new technologies to other housing projects. The contracting arrangements on this project have been extremely challenging and credit should be given to all the contractor partners and consultants who have worked collaboratively to deliver the project.”

The project started on site in November and is on schedule for completion in May this year. When completed the project will showcase the various energy efficient construction systems that have been built on the site, including closed panel systems, prefabricated and modular house construction and Structural Insulated Panel systems, along with different renewable technologies.

Alan McGuckin, Chief Executive with Kingdom Housing Association added: “Partnership working is not new to Kingdom and we appreciate the benefits that can be achieved from this approach, which would be difficult for any organisation to achieve on its own. This project has not only allowed us to expand the usual successful partnership arrangements, it has also enabled us to work very productively with the local primary school, the 3 Fife Colleges and St Andrews & Napier Universities, to facilitate employment and training initiatives, student placements and other wider role projects.”

There are 10 different contractor partners involved with the construction programme and Dunfermline based contractor, Campion Homes is the principal contractor, co-ordinating the works on site. Local Fife consultants Oliver and Robb, Hardies and SBA have developed the Masterplan for the larger site and have developed the detailed design proposals for the innovation phase of the project.

Over £3m is being invested in the project and the Scottish Government provided part funding to allow the new homes to be developed on the site.

Representatives of the project will be attending the EcoBuild exhibition in London later this month to spread the word about the full programme of events that will be on offer at the showcase in May.

The showcase and supporting exhibition will run for three weeks in May. For more information, on the exhibition programme and all the partners involved with the project and the different house systems being developed on the site, visit www.housinginnovationshowcase.co.uk