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MAKE 2011 THE YEAR YOU BUILD YOUR OWN HOME

Boosted by the recent statement by Housing Minister Grant Shapps announcing the Government's intention to encourage and support those who want to build their own home, 2011 is set to be a big year for self build, and the start of a new revolution of home building. As well a great news for budding self builders, the statement couldn't have come at a better time for the National Self Build & Renovation Centre in Swindon, which is gearing up for its fourth annual National Self Build & Renovation Show next month (25 – 27 February), and has welcomed hundreds of people through its doors this year already.

With the housing market still suffering the impact of the credit crunch and the recession, for many homeowners, now is the ideal time to take matters in to their own hands, and build their own homes. The National Centre in Swindon, which opened its doors four years ago, has reported an increase in visitors over the last year, and some of its busiest days in the last few weeks, since the announcement.

Tim Doherty, Managing Director of the Centre explains: "The first weekend after Grant Shapps' made his speech, we were extremely busy, and so far, in January 2011, our visitor numbers are more than double what we saw in same period last year. It just goes to show how many people want to build their own home, and now feel empowered and encouraged by Government' s support."

In his announcement, Mr Shapps said for far too long the aspirations of ordinary people to build their own home have been thwarted by barriers and red tape, and that the Government wanted the idea of 'building your own home' to become mainstream and less problematic. Barriers that stand in the way of self builders will be torn down - including a complex and bureaucratic planning system and regulatory burdens, and the Government is working with the National Self Build Association (NaSBA) members to tackle the issues, including lack of access to land and finance.

The National Self Build & Renovation Centre, a founding member of NaSBA, has played a significant role in helping people understand the process of building a home, offering expert advice, information, and self build courses. Next month, it will host the National Self Build & Renovation Show, the ideal place for people to find out more about self building.

"We have had a burgeoning self build sector in this country for the last ten years, with a dedicated supply chain and infrastructure in place to help self builders, so the announcement of government policy to support this sector is very welcome indeed, and will ensure that more people can take advantage of the expert advice and support on offer when deciding to build their own homes.

"There are lots of people who dream of building their own homes, so the fact that the Government want to support people and make the process easier is great news. The Centre will have a very busy year ahead, starting with our annual Show next month, as the ideal place to find out what building your own home is all about," Doherty said.

Whether you want to build a bungalow for your retirement, a big house for a growing family, or a truly eco friendly home, you will need all the advice, inspiration and knowledge you can get. Hosted in the unique setting of the National Centre, The National Self Build & Renovation Show is the place to get it, with an exciting mix of experts, seminars, exhibitors, educational exhibits, life-size houses and audio tours.

The Show includes one-to-one consultations with leading industry experts and professionals, topical and informative presentations and seminars, and an opportunity to see and learn about the latest products, materials, and building systems.

For comprehensive and impartial advice on build, renovation and home improvement, visit The National Self Build & Renovation Show (25th – 27th February 2011) at the National Self Build & Renovation Centre in Swindon, just off Junction 16 of the M4. To book free tickets or for more information, visit www.buildstore.co.uk/show or call 0845 223 4455. Tickets on the door: £10 per adult or £15 per couple

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Notes to Editors

BuildStore is at the heart of the UK's self build and renovation sector, with a bespoke end-to-end offering of products and services, specifically designed to help self builders and renovators throughout their projects.

BuildStore's core services include:

- Land finding via PlotSearch, the UK's largest and most accurate online database of building plots, renovations and conversions. There are over 9,000 plots, renovations and conversions available, constantly validated for accuracy and include aerial photography
- Financial Services – BuildStore is the UK's leading provider of tailored self build and renovation mortgages, allowing funds to be released in stages throughout the project giving positive cash flow. Mortgages are sold direct to the public and via intermediaries
- Buying materials - BuildStore's TradeCard provides over 3,000 members with discounts and offers of building materials, plant and tool hire from leading suppliers and builder's merchants, by combining the buying power of the UK's self builders and renovators
- The UK's first and only National Self Build & Renovation Centre, opened in February 2007 in Swindon; an impressive 67,000 sq ft Centre designed to educate, inform and inspire self builders and renovators.

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