

COUNCIL SUPPORT LAND RELEASE FOR SELF BUILD

An innovative self build scheme led by BuildStore and Swindon Borough Council was announced today, in a bid to tackle the shortage of suitable, affordable homes in the area.

Last year, BuildStore, the experts at the heart of the self build and renovation market, opened the National Self Build & Renovation Centre in Swindon, and has attracted thousands of people from throughout the UK and helped them realise their dream of building their own home. Self build is becoming more appealing and is proving a realistic alternative to the existing housing market for people wishing to get on or move up the property ladder.

Under a joint venture, BuildStore and Swindon Borough Council are looking to create a large site in Swindon, set aside purely for self build. Once a suitable location has been identified by the Council, the experts at the National Self Build & Renovation Centre will begin to establish individual plots for each house, provide the full infrastructure, including access, water, electricity and all mains services. Each house will then be designed and built to each individual's own specification, with project management, training and facilities provided by the Centre experts as necessary.

Similar self build community schemes have been set up across the UK, but this will be the first partnership with a local Council in England. Tim Doherty, Managing Director at the National Self Build & Renovation Centre explains:

"We are delighted that Swindon Borough Council is working with us on this scheme. It shows a real commitment to providing affordable housing solutions in the Swindon area and hopefully its success will inspire other local authorities to consider similar schemes. Self build is more accessible and more viable than people first realise and aside from the financial savings and VAT benefits, it is incredibly rewarding and it provides tailored accommodation.

"This is a great example of how public sector and private sectors can work and invest together to make a difference and meet the needs of the local people."

Councillor Peter Greenhalgh, Swindon Borough Council's Cabinet Member for Highways, Transport & Strategic Planning, added: "This is an exciting concept and reflects our commitment to providing affordable houses.

"Those commissioning their own home build often specify modern constructional techniques such as off-site construction, which can provide superior, more environmentally-friendly solutions. These practices can apply to all sizes of property, so that self builders from every age range and demographic can take advantage of this unique opportunity."

The National Self Build & Renovation Centre will be collecting details from those interested in taking part in the project, which should start towards the end of 2008. Interested parties can register their interest on 01506 409 616 or via the 'Contact Us' page at www.mykindofhome.co.uk

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BuildStore, the company behind the National Self Build & Renovation Centre, offers an end-to-end service to the self builder and people wanting to renovate or convert an existing property. To capture this rapidly growing market, The National Self Build and Renovation Centre was opened in February 2007.

The 67,000 sq ft Centre is on a different scale to anything seen before in the UK self build and renovation sector. It has a dual role of helping to educate people interested in self building and renovating and ensuring those actively building can find all the services and materials they need.

Visitors can learn about the different stages of the self build and renovation process from the "Education Zone", which features six life-sized exhibits including, plant, groundworks, walls and roof structures. They can also find inspiration inside the Potton show home, and in the "Renovation Zone", discover techniques for renovating, with a full-sized house transformed from an 'old wreck' to a fully renovated home.

For visitors just starting their self build or renovation journey, the National Self Build & Renovation Centre can help them find a plot of land, renovation or conversion opportunities, with PlotSearch, consider finance options for their project with the in-house financial advisors, or simply get advice from the team of experts. Those actively involved in the process can take advantage of TradeCard, a unique card which offers discounted prices building materials and tool hire from leading merchants and suppliers. Plus, over 240 industry suppliers showcase their products and services in a dedicated "Trade Village", complete with a bar code system, allowing visitors to easily order brochures and further information, which will be sent to them at home.

For more information, or to request an interview, please contact:

Jaclyn Thorburn

PR & Communications Manager

BuildStore Ltd.

Direct: 01506 409 466

Mobile: 07809 583 116

Email: jaclyn.thorburn@buildstore.co.uk