



E-Newsletter Vol 2 Issue 5, July 2009

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A note to readers



Michael Thompson
WMCCE, Executive
Director

The uncertainties over the recession together with what appears to be a long hot summer makes it all the more important that we keep positive about the future and celebrate the successes of our industry. Not least are the tremendous strides being made relating to new forms of housing that are starting to come to the fore in the West Midlands.

One example is the Elements Europe house that was built in a day in mid-June, organised by the Shropshire Constructing Excellence Club at the Telford College of Arts & Technology. This demonstrated how a modern decent starter home can be constructed off site and then literally built in a day on site. Imagine just how quickly several of these houses could be built at an affordable price on a suitable site.

This month sees the launch of NuBuild at Stoke on Trent College, another example of a house, built off site but fabricated within days. More information about this below.

Both of these provide examples of how within the West Midlands, we can start to create quickly new, sustainable homes within the region, while at the same time encouraging new business and new skills to match them.

2012 Games Opportunities



In support of the 2012 Olympic Games, WMCCE is working in conjunction with Advantage West Midlands and the government portal CompeteFor.com to provide information about the London 2012 procurement opportunities.

➔ [See Tenders](#)

Want to know who from the West Midlands won a bid?

➔ [Read the Monthly Briefing](#)

Coming Events

Challenges in the transition to a Low Carbon Society

When: 13-14 July 09

Where: Scarman Conference Centre, University of Warwick

A two day major conference on the technological, economic, social and political challenges of moving to a Low Carbon Society...[more](#)

Nu Build Launch

When: 15 July 09

Where: Nu Build/Stoke-on-Trent College, Stoke-on-Trent

A new generation of building arrives.

Housing and the construction industry are changing at a rapid pace. We'll show you how at the official launch of the innovative building scheme - Nu Build...[more](#)

Winning Bid Masterclass

When: 16-17 July 09

Where: WMCCE, Birmingham

Writing bids that persuade the client to pick you is a crucial skill. Your bid must put you way out in front of your competitors, presenting a...[more](#)

Royal Shakespeare Theatre Redevelopment

When: 21 July 09

Where: Hotel Du Vin, Birmingham

Birmingham Best Practice Club are delighted to welcome Tim Court of Mace who have been appointed as...[more](#)

Dealing with Difficult People: Negotiating Skills

When: 23 July 09

Where: Wolverhampton University, Wolverhampton

A free developmental programme for

News

WMCCE Backs Nu Build Approach to Eco-Friendly Homes



Acting as a key adviser to the 'Nu Build' project, WMCCE has worked alongside a number of bodies including Renew North Staffordshire, Stoke-on-Trent College, Advantage West Midlands, BRE, Streif UK and Kier Group, for a state-of-the-art construction project at Stoke-on-Trent College, which showcases an innovative approach to meeting the requirements of the Government's Code for Sustainable Homes.

The 15th July will see the launch of the innovative building scheme - 'Nu Build'. For more information, please visit www.nu-build.org.uk

West Midlands Monthly Economic - Construction



According to the last report of the West Midlands Task Force, the construction private-sector activity remains considerably down although the public sector investment in infrastructure helps offset some of this decline. Read the report [HERE](#)

Virtual Building Site Unveiled



The UK's first construction training simulator by ACT-UK, a state-of-the-art training centre for construction managers, has been unveiled. The simulation Centre is set to open at the Coventry University Technology Park in September 2009. [More](#)

Question Time in Construction



An expert panel, comprising leading figureheads from both the public and private sectors have taken part in a 'Question Time' style forum on how the public sector can help to boost recovery of the pressurised construction industry and safeguard the future of the sector and jobs.

They deliberated on a variety of topics which included Government aid and local Government funding, low carbon economy, access to finance and Birmingham's Big City Plan...[more](#)

Construction Talk Podcast: Visionary Thinking



Topic: Will companies find new opportunities and weather the current economic issues with the sustainability agenda of the government?

guests:

Tim Pollard, Head of Sustainability, Wolseley UK Ltd
Chris Williams, West Midlands Green Party
Simon Slater, Director, Sustainability West Midlands
Carl Huntley, Director, Base Architecture & Chairman, Shropshire Constructing Excellence Club

[Listen the Podcast](#)

The Black Country Constructing Excellence Club Anniversary



Over 60 people attended the Black Country Constructing Excellence Club's event at the Innovation Construction Centre of the City of Wolverhampton College.

An 'aged birthday' cake marked the Club's second anniversary, which has