

NORTH WERRINGTON DEVELOPMENT - ZERO CARBON

PRESS RELEASE BY ALLISON HOMES LTD

Recent research has suggested that our homes are one of the most significant contributors to global warming (accounting for around 30 per cent of the UK's total energy use and 27 per cent of carbon dioxide emissions). As such the Government has challenged the house-building industry to enhance its increasing green credentials by creating a number of zero carbon (i.e. where the amount of energy taken from the national grid is less than or equal to the amount put back through renewable technologies) and near zero carbon (i.e. where there are no net carbon emissions associated with heating, hot water, ventilation and lighting) developments.

The Carbon Challenge, to be run by English Partnerships, will fast track a number of new developments that combine exceptional environmental performance with quality buildings and high standards of design. The Carbon Challenge links into a wider package of green measures announced by the Government in December 2006 aimed at tackling global warming and reducing carbon emissions (including a proposal that all new homes will be zero carbon by 2016).

The Carbon Challenge will bring forward several thousand homes across a wide range of sites and each development is likely to contain a minimum of 200 homes. This will ensure a critical mass allowing the installation of shared energy systems and other features that will contribute to a zero or near zero carbon foot print for each settlement.

English Partnerships has put forward two initial development sites including Glebe Road in Peterborough. The intention is to attract bids from private sector house builders and housing associations to deliver the new greener communities. It is expected that in the first year of the Challenge a total of five major public and private sector sites will be identified. Added to this, local authorities, Regional Development Agencies, private developers and housing associations will also be asked to nominate their own sites.

Work will begin on the first sites by Summer 2008 with the first completions in Spring 2009. Each site will have a tailored design brief to reduce carbon emissions, incorporate features to reduce water usage and energy consumption as well as minimise waste. A key feature will be to increase biodiversity and include greenery, which is known to significantly reduce overheating and improve air quality. Lessons learnt through the building programme, including the supply chain of materials, will be analysed and used to inform future wide-scale carbon neutral development.

Allison Homes will be looking to meet the Carbon Challenge at their proposed development at North Werrington. Allison Homes are already at the forefront of green development practices, being declared a Carbon Neutral company in August 2006. Those who attended the Public Exhibition in October last year will be well aware of the company's green intentions for the North Werrington development, including the use of green technologies, minimising waste and sourcing products locally as well as designing the site to encourage sustainable travel patterns and to take advantage of natural light/heat sources.