

So... How did it go?

On the 27th February, the Trust hosted a conference on Sustainable Construction in Schools. Approximately 120 people attended, travelling from as far away as Northumberland and Northern Ireland. They represented a wide range of interest including



Above: Councillor Peter Burden welcomes delegates to the conference

local authorities, head teachers, school governors, architects and construction engineers. Three staff from World Wildlife Fund UK also attended and endorsed the publication of "Sustainable Design and Construction in Schools and Educational Buildings". Exhibitors included the Centre for Sustainable Energy, the Somerset College of Arts and Technology, and the Magdalen Farm Project.

The day was chaired by Councillor Peter Burden, Executive Member for Strategic Planning, North Somerset Council, and Councillor Pauline Clarke, Portfolio Holder for Education, Somerset County Council.

The day combined real life case studies with examples of sustainable development linked to the curriculum. Six students from the 'Green Committee' at Crispin school in Street also gave an interesting presentation about how sustainable construction in their school has affected them and what

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Sustainable Building Updates

Great Bow Yard

On the 15th February, the Great Bow Yard interview panel began the interesting but lengthy task of interviewing the five architects (teams) that were short-listed at the end of last year. The final interview was held on February 17th and, after much deliberation, a fairly unanimous agreement was reached.

Stride Treglown were the successful architects. They were chosen for their

part of the presentation material used by the winning architects during their interview to support their development plans. (Please note that these designs do not necessarily represent final plans for the development of Great Bow Yard).

Stride Treglown have won a number of recent awards for environmentally sensitive projects including the DeFRA building in Temple Meads, Bristol, and are one of the largest multi-discipline design practices in Bristol and Cardiff.

STSD/SWEH would like to thank all those who took part in this competition and welcome Stride Treglown to the Great Bow Yard project team.

For further details on how you can find out more about the developments at Great Bow Yard, see *Dates for Your Diary*.

The model and plan which helped win Stride Treglown the opportunity to design the Great Bow Yard development.



imaginative approach to the design and their ability to successfully meet the challenge that was set to combine the private dwellings and public space and to incorporate features of the surrounding countryside into the development. The model and plan shown above are

Still seeking Investors! Whilst we have successfully managed to raise the £300,000 required to buy the site at Great Bow Yard, we now require additional investors to help us raise a further £200,000 to enable us to complete the project in one phase. If you are interested in investing in this rare opportunity, please contact Julian Brooks at the Trust office.

STSD aims to make sustainable construction the norm rather than the exception in Somerset by 2010. STSD have received Grant Contributions from: Somerset County Council, South Somerset District Council, J.A Clark Trust, Wyvern Environmental Trust and Shell Better Britain. The World Wildlife Fund now sponsors The Somerset Trust for Sustainable Development.



Conference news

continued...

they are doing to push sustainability that little bit further.

Lunch consisted of a buffet of local produce.

We would like to thank North Somerset Council for sponsoring the venue at the Winter Gardens in Weston-Super-Mare, and the Government Office South West for subsidising fees to school representatives. Additionally, we would like to thank all the speakers who contributed to making the day an enjoyable and worthwhile event.

The Conference also saw the launch of our latest publication – *Sustainable Design and Construction in Schools and Educational Buildings*

by Steve Charter and Julian Brooks. This publication has kindly been sponsored by WWF UK and is being printed as you read.



If you would like to order your copy of this publication, price – £20.00 (£16.00 to members) or any other publication by the Trust, please ask for an order form from the Trust Office.

Creeping into planning guidance

In our attempts to meet our strap-line commitment of making sustainable development normal rather than exceptional in Somerset by 2010, STSD have joined forces with North Somerset Council and South Somerset District Council to operate a Sustainable Development Advice and Information Service. Anyone submitting a development proposal to NSC or SSDC will be encouraged to contact STSD where they can benefit

from free information and advice on how they can make their development more sustainable. Whilst individuals have no obligation to contact us (at the moment!), the service is expected to receive many enquiries over the next few months. In preparation, we have produced a number of information leaflets to help with providing a speedy response to some of the more common enquiries that we expect to receive.

.....PRESS RELEASE

'EcoHomes' at Ashlands Portishead

A groundbreaking legal agreement negotiated by North Somerset Council will see the development of the biggest Eco Homes scheme in the UK. The agreement relates to outline planning permission for a scheme at The Ashlands, Portishead and ensures developers deliver 1470 new energy saving homes to the BRE EcoHomes 'good' rating. A further 30 homes are to be built to BRE 'excellent' rating standard which could save residents a massive 60-70% on fuel bills.

Julian Brooks, Project Manager for Somerset Trust for Sustainable Development, commented "As far as we know this is the first sizeable speculative housing development in the UK that seeks to use the BRE's eco homes accreditation system. It is a shift in culture, and a recognition on the part of the developer that building eco homes is the way to go."

NSC Executive Member for Strategic Planning, Councillor Peter Burden, says the council's successful partnership approach with the developers has secured the building of cost effective EcoHomes. "Our objective in relation to new development is to ensure a healthy and safe environment, increase energy efficiency, reduce waste, increase recycling and reduce noise and pollution. Given that the biggest investment people make in their lives is their home, it makes sense to build properties that decrease costs and save energy. We're already seeing building regulations being increasingly tightened, and as a council, we're keen to see them tightened even more to incorporate energy saving requirements. If developers get on

board now they will be ahead of the game when it comes to legislation."

Work is expected to begin on site this summer. Energy saving elements involve the use of a brownfield site, and orientation of the buildings to achieve maximum solar gain. The 'good' or 'excellent' BRE Energy rating is awarded according to the extent of sustainable materials, high level insulation, double or triple glazing, fuel efficient boilers, white goods that use reduced amounts of electricity and water, and grey water

recycling. Householders will also be provided with home fact sheets containing details of the energy saving aspects of the home and advice on the future use and maintenance in terms of energy conservation and sustainability. The scheme includes good pedestrian, bus and cycle routes. Improved public transport is being explored with developers making a major contribution towards the provision of additional bus services linking Portishead with other towns, and to a strategic transport link study that will look into the re-opening of the old Portishead to Bristol railway line. Part funding is also being provided for a waste management facility for the collection, sorting and bulking of recyclable household waste.

Councillor Burden concludes "Working in partnership with the developers has resulted in a scheme that will provide much needed private and social housing, but equally important is that it will achieve an overall environmental gain that will benefit the community and save money for residents".

Can't afford to be more sustainable?
What about applying for a grant?

MONEY, MONEY, MONEY

Many construction and regeneration projects qualify for grant aid these days and sustainable construction projects are no exception. It appears that there are many schemes out there willing to push some well-deserved money in your direction to help. However, how many of us actually take advantage of these offerings... or, even worse, have to resort to less sustainable methods of construction due to low budgets and depleted funds?

For those of you considering a project that involves a sustainable theme, a few of the grants that may be appropriate to you have been outlined below. The list is by no means exhaustive and, if you feel that none of these are appropriate to your project, do contact us and we will do our best to find a scheme that is.

■ Somerset Sustainable Construction Grant Scheme for Village Halls and Community Buildings. As it says in the title and as mentioned on the front page of Autumn 2002 newsletter, this grant scheme was set up to provide financial assistance towards the additional cost of incorporating sustainable features in the design and construction of village halls and community buildings. The scheme is currently being reviewed in order to simplify it and hopefully to increase the amount of grant available for each project. *For further details: contact Eileen Zoers at the Community Council for Somerset Tel 01823 331222*

■ Solar Grants from the Energy Savings Trust. Grants of 40 – 65% of the cost of buying and installing photovoltaic (PV) cells on small to large projects. *For further details: visit www.est.org.uk/solar Tel 0800 2983978.*

■ The Glass House Community Design and Advice Service. Applicable to community groups wishing to embark on regeneration projects such as a community garden, community hall or even training trips etc, this scheme offers up to £3,000 grants, with help, advice and training.

For further details contact: Louisa Neuburger. Tel 020 7253 3334. Email louisa@architecturefoundation.org.uk

■ The Aggregates Levy. This two year pilot scheme offers funding towards community involved projects of the size £50,000 and above, although some smaller projects may be considered. Although the scheme was oversubscribed within the first few months, the Countryside Agency are urging that expression of interest forms are still submitted as there is a chance that the funding will be extended for a further three years. *For further details: including forms, project examples and up to date news on the schemes progress: visit www.countryside.gov.uk/aggregates. Tel 0117 9707924. Email liz.bingham@countryside.gov.uk*

■ Shell Better Britain Campaign. This scheme offers grants of up to £2000 towards community projects that can prove that they are benefiting both the community and the environment. *For further details: visit www.sbbc.co.uk Email info@sbbc.co.uk*

■ The Waterways Trust, Small Grants Scheme. Open to voluntary organisations, community groups and schools, this scheme offers up to £5000 towards the cost of developing a local waterway initiative that provides lasting environmental enhancement whilst encouraging community involvement in the waterways. *For further details: visit www.thewaterwaystrust.co.uk. Small Grants Scheme, The Waterways Trust North West Office, The Boat Museum, South Pier Road, Ellesmere Port, Cheshire, CH65 4FW. Tel 0151 373 4382. Email enquiries.hq@thewaterwaystrust.co.uk*

■ Clear Skies – offers renewable energy grants of between £500 and £5000 for householders, and up to £100,000 for community organisations. Projects include the installation of solar water-heating, wind power, hydropower, ground-source heat pumps, automated wood pellet stove etc. *For further details: visit www.clear-skies.org or tel 08702 430930.*

News from the outside... coming in!

Bradfords joins forces with the Trust

Bradfords feel it is important to make more of their customers aware of the added benefits that environmentally-friendly building practices can provide and have recently joined the Trust as our first corporate member.

They will promote the use of UK products such as sheep's wool insulation, natural slate and secondhand bricks and tiles. They will also stock products such as solar panels/heating systems, bathroom suites that manage water use and CFC free insulation panels and roofing boards. On production of an STSD membership card (which will issued to

all members in the near future) members can receive a discount on these items. During 2003 a Sustainability department will be open at their Yeovil branch where customers can see for themselves the range of products and materials available.

Visit www.bradfords.co.uk/news If you require any further information please contact Bradford's marketing department on 01935 845245.



BULLETIN BOARD

Any Old Iron?... stone, timber or tiles

Following a recent request for us to find a home for 3,000 spare Victorian red clay roof tiles, salvaged from some Alms houses in West Coker, we have decided that it maybe useful to our members to have an STSD Re-use and Recycle Bulletin Board in the newsletter. Please use this space to advertise any construction materials, old or new, either for sale or free to a good home. Alternatively, use the space to request certain items. Send your advert to Corina, complete with contact details. Please state clearly if you do not wish your contact details to be published in the newsletter and we will contact you if your advert generates any interest.

Membership News

Member's Directory

Thank you to all those who have sent in their details for inclusion in the members directory. The directory will be updated approximately twice yearly. If you wish your details to be included, amended or removed in the next edition, please fill in and return the appropriate section included at the back of your copy.

STSD Membership cards

All members will shortly be issued with a membership card. It will contain your personal membership number and, once signed by yourself, can be used to receive discounts on our conferences, seminars and publications as well as 'green' building materials purchased from Bradfords Building Supplies Ltd... for more about Bradfords see the panel on page 3.

Volunteers Wanted

Do you have a flair for publicity, administration or organisation and would like to help the Trust grow? We are always on the look out for people to volunteer at the Trust, young or old. Contact Corina at the Trust office in Langport if you feel you can help the Trust in any way.

Dates for your diary

Hot topics for First Wednesday Club

Wednesday 7th May 'Great Bow Yard – the story so far' If you are interested to hear more about the purchase of the Trusts first eco development site at Great Bow Yard, a talk will be given by Julian Brooks and Stuart Black to update you on the progress of this exciting project. Prior to the presentation on Great Bow Yard, the Trust will be holding its second Annual General Meeting. The meeting will begin at 6pm and our members are very welcome to come along.

Wednesday June 4th A new view on eco-villages: This is an invitation to explore the what, why and how of creating eco-villages. Alan Heeks will describe The Village Forest, which plans to create a 200 person eco-village, community woodland and pioneering public service projects and is looking for a site in or near Somerset. Alan has already founded two land-based, public service projects in this area: The Magdalen Project and Hazel Hill Wood.

As usual, these informal networking events will begin at 6.30pm in the Old Town Hall, Bow Street, Langport. They are free for members and booking is not required. Refreshments will be provided. Look out for details of future club meetings in the next edition of re:news or feel free to contact Corina on 01458 259400 (corina@sustainablehousing.org.uk)

Eco Renovation Seminar

Wednesday 14th May, 10am – 4pm at the Broomhouse Theatre in Taunton. Sustainable construction for new buildings, deals with only 1% of the housing stock in any year. Therefore, the renovation of existing buildings is very important. This seminar will explore how renovation can be made more sustainable using case studies of old and modern houses. We will also run discussion sessions to identify key opportunities and barriers to sustainable development. Fees including VAT – £50 (£40 members). A buffet lunch will be included.

Recycled Building Products

In the third quarter of the year, we are hoping to run a seminar on recycled building products. As yet, no further details have been confirmed, but if you have any suggestions, and/or you would like to register your interest, please contact Corina or Liz at the office and we will ensure that you receive details in due course.

The Create Centre in Bristol hold a number of events throughout the year that we feel may be of interest to our members. Visit: www.createcentre.co.uk and click on News and Events or ring 0117 9224444

Visits

July – Day trip to Dorset

Join us for a sustainable development crawl around one of our beautiful neighbouring counties. We hope to incorporate HRH Prince Charles's development at Poundbury in Dorchester, a modern timber frame social housing project in East Dorset and a new community building near Poole.....and not forgetting some refuelling stops in some traditional timber frame public houses en-route! Further details will be published nearer the time.

Spreading the word

In order for our message to be heard in every corner of the county, we will in future, be accompanying our display stand at as many exhibitions, fayres and shows as possible. Over the next couple of months we will be seen on Saturday 5th April at The Spring Greens Fair in Wells (in aid of St Margrets Hospice), Saturday 26th April at Bristol's Alternative Homes and Garden Fair, and Monday 26th May at Yeovil Country Park Fayre. If you would like to know any more about these events please contact us.

If you are interested in any of these events and would like further details to be sent nearer the time, please send us your request and mailing details. In order to save on resources, the Trust prefers to make contact via electronic mail so do send us your email address if you have one.