

Welcome

Welcome to June's edition of the newsletter from The Works. The purpose of this newsletter is to inform you about the progress being made at The Works by the current contractors. This edition will provide you with an update about the site in relation to the work that is being undertaken on the following projects:

- REGAIN Building
- The Infrastructure
- General Offices
- Leisure Centre
- The Learning Zone

You can also find information about how to arrange a tour at The Works and see for yourself the progress being made.

Welsh Future Homes

The fourth house at The Welsh Future Homes project is now complete. The Lime House is a two bedroom property that is the second certified zero carbon house at The Works. Welsh suppliers and products have made it one of the UK's most energy efficient homes.

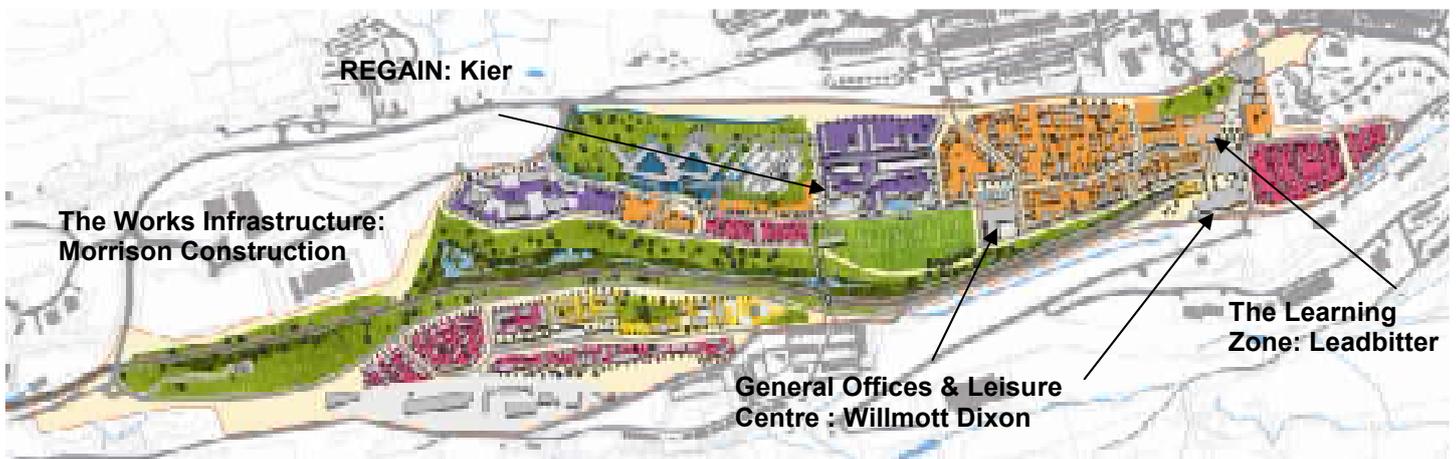
The Welsh Future Homes project is the development of houses that demonstrate low energy homes. They are one offs and are establishing Ebbw Vale as the centre of a new eco industry in Wales and inspire a generation of housing that sets new standards in energy efficiency while being affordable and very cheap to run.

Recently the Larch House at the project has won a prestigious award from the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors Wales (RICS). This is widely regarded as the top award in the field of eco construction.



Willmott Dixon Wins Contractor of the Year

Willmott Dixon has been awarded a top industry award from this years Building Magazine Awards for the Major Contractor of the Year. The contractor is involved with The General Offices and the new Leisure Centre. The team's hard work, continuing commitment to innovation and delivering a sustainable approach were cited as reasons for the impressive win.



Welcome to our first newsletter update



Introduction

The main aim of the Regain project is to reduce the greenhouse effect through alternative industrial management. The brief for the project is for the creation of a business incubator unit constructed specifically to explore and showcase the broadest aspects of sustainable design.

The Regain building will be one of four European pilot buildings. The other buildings are located in Belgium, France and Scotland.

The construction will be to BREEAM Excellent standards and the new single storey building will house 8 small business starter units over a floor area of 450m².

Progress Update

- The building is now up to wall plate level
- The infrastructure – drains and services are being installed and this will continue over the next few weeks.



Architects Impression



Progress Photo

Coming Soon

- The timber roofing panels will be lifted into position in the next fortnight and the green roof finish will follow on from this.
- Window installation will commence soon and the building will be watertight and weatherproof by the end of the summer.
- Artwork by local school pupils will decorate the hoarding which partially surrounds the perimeter of the site.

Community Benefits

As part of our Community Benefits Plan with Blaenau Gwent, we have engaged with local schools in order to produce **artwork for our site hoarding**. Watch this space – the artwork will be installed soon!

We are also taking part in **Health and Safety talks** in local schools and we hosted a stall at the Welsh Future Homes Open Day.

Business in the

Community

Considerate Constructors



This project, along with all Kier projects is registered with the Considerate Constructors Scheme. This is a scheme that promotes reducing the impact of construction sites on the local community and surrounding areas. As part of this process, we welcome any comments you may have. Neil and his team are always happy to discuss any issues, so please feel free to contact them.

Neil.Bowen@kier.co.uk

07967 575524



Welcome to our first newsletter update

Morrison Construction are delighted to be on The Works site delivering one of the key pieces of infrastructure. Having arrived on site in early February, work is progressing well.

This will include delivering the road network, main services and developing an underground infrastructure that will help the public buildings on the site to be energy efficient.

This vital contract will deliver facilities and services that will enable the current projects being constructed and / or refurbished to be open to the public in the near future.

Also to be developed is a District Heating pipe network which will be incorporated within the road infrastructure and connected to an Energy Centre to provide heat and power initially to public buildings.



The system is energy efficient and therefore will help The Works to its target of reducing its carbon foot print by 60%, one of the many objectives required to deliver The Works as a sustainable exemplar.

This phase of works will also see important links being made from The Works to the existing road links in Ebbw Vale. This will include:

- Linking the site to Steelworks Road (south of the Big Arch at Cae Ffwrnais and further south at Ty Llwyn)
- The new road from Ysbyty Aneurin Bevan through the site and creating a new junction on the A4046 (near Holland Street).

Progress

- Works are progressing well and the new embankment to the A4046 is now visible from the surrounding area.
- The embankment has been constructed entirely by recycling existing material from the site, and therefore helping to deliver The Works sustainable objectives.



Notices

A4046: temporary lights are now in place for the roadworks until approximately September 2011

Contact Details

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Sport Pitches – New Leisure Centre



Work started at the end of March on site on the new Sports Pitches which will serve the new Ebbw Vale Sport and Leisure Centre.

The photo may show what looks like a field but this is actually the result of a cut and fill exercise to bring the site to formation level.

The Works as a whole is committed to environmentally friendly working and an aspect is the avoidance of removal of soil arising from site. To that end, any surplus material we have on our site will be used elsewhere in the compound for someone else to make up ground. With the cut and fill exercise finished, work began on the drainage of the site which will ensure the pitches don't become waterlogged and unusable during periods of bad weather in the future. The bases and ducting for the floodlighting and street lighting is currently underway and we will continue thereafter with fencing and eventually surfacing the pitches.

As planning has been approved for the main Leisure Centre building it is hoped that work will begin on that shortly.



The General Offices Refurbishment



The General Offices is nearing completion. Gwent Records Offices and the Ebbw Vale Steelworks Archive Trust will relocate to the building and open to the public in October. An exciting visitor attraction called 3000° - The Valleys Genealogy and Heritage Experience will open later in the year.

We have made excellent progress on site. The Extension is shown on the picture and holds an impressive 10km of shelving to house all the records from Gwent Records Offices

The refurbishment has progressed significantly and the impressive stone staircase is now restored. The external works are well underway and the public areas will provide an exciting and vibrant location.

The Learning Zone

Progress

Leadbitter is halfway through the construction time frame on the £27.5 million Learning Zone campus, with the handover in May 2012.

With the concrete frame completed, work has now started on installing the roof steel, wall cladding and the 7400 square metres of brick work. The Learning Zone has 13,300 square metres of usable floor space spread over 4 floors, complete with roof top gardens.



Employment and Apprentices

Over 350 people have been involved on site on the different stages of the construction project over the past 12 months:

- 39% of operatives and staff live within 20 miles of site, of which 30 people were previously unemployed
- 7 people are currently serving brick work apprenticeships on site. This includes 2 Bricklaying students from Coleg Gwent in Ebbw Vale who have recently gained apprenticeships on site.

More employment, apprentice, training and work experience opportunities will be available, including carpentry, plumbing & decorating, when the next stages of work start on site in the next few months.

Benefiting Local Companies

Leadbitter is working hard to ensure that local contractors and suppliers have an opportunity to tender for work on the project.

- £15 million of work contracts have been let to date
- £13 million going directly to companies in Wales
- £2 million of contracts going direct to local companies

Local sub-contractors and suppliers are also benefiting in other ways from requests to source locally:

Over 7000m³ of concrete worth over £500,000 has been used in the piling, ground works and frame. This was supplied from companies in Ebbw Vale and Tredegar, directly supporting more local jobs.

For more information please contact:
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Site progress May 2011

Open Day at The Works a Success

Recently The Works organised an open day for the members of the public to find out information about what's going on at the scheme and an opportunity to speak to the contractors who are currently involved in developing the exciting projects at The Works. It was held at The Welsh Future Homes project. The contractors involved included Morrison Construction, Kier, Leadbitter and Willmott Dixon. The successful event attracted a number of people from the Blaenau Gwent Community.

Meet the Neighbours

The next opportunity for the community to meet the contractors will be:

Thursday 29th September 2011
2.00pm – 7.30pm
Venue: The Environmental Resource Centre, Steelworks Road Ty Llwyn.

This is an opportunity to find out what the Environmental Resource Centre is all about. There may be an opportunity to visit the new primary school construction site on the Hot Mill (weather and construction activities permitting. Please wear sensible, sturdy shoes and a waterproof coat).

Come and Visit The Works

Book yourself onto a tour of The Works and a visit to The Welsh Future Homes

See for yourself the progress being made and book yourself a visit in a 4x4 that will take you around the site.

The Welsh Future Homes are also open for members of the public to visit and see what the houses of the future may look like. These energy efficient homes are unique to Ebbw Vale.

Site tours and visits to the homes are available
Monday – Friday by appointment only.

Please contact the Project Office to arrange your visit to The Works and The Welsh Future Homes.

The Environmental Resource Centre

The Centre which is located at The Works is open and run by Gwent Wildlife Trust. To find out more information about forthcoming events and what you can do at the Centre contact:



T: 01495 307525
www.gwentwildlife.org
Opening Hours:
Monday – Thursday, 9am – 4pm

Working to Minimise Disruption

With the continuous works, we will try and minimise disruptions to you. Should you need to contact us regarding any issues, please contact the Project Office.

Contractors will work to inform you if any works are likely to cause disruptions in your area.

Contact Details

If you require further information about the project please contact:

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A Welsh version of this newsletter is available. If you require a copy please contact The Works Project Office.