



## BRITAIN'S SIX MILLION WANNABE SELF BUILDERS WILL BE THE FOCUS OF THE FIRST EVER NATIONAL SELF BUILD WEEK

**3 May 2013**

The first-ever National Self Build Week (NSBW) aims to help millions of Britons turn their self build dreams into a reality.

During the Week – at events at London's ExCeL centre and all around the country – there will be opportunities to discover the many ways it is now possible to get a home built.

And over the next few weeks tantalising information will be revealed about a string of major new self build projects that are in the pipeline.

These include:

- A ground-breaking project that could provide up to 1,000 self build homes in **Oxfordshire**. The development, on a 500 acre site, is being master minded by a local authority that is already progressing a range of innovative self build projects that will deliver 250 self build homes.
- An initiative that will help 150 families in villages across **Devon** buy a site and build a three bedroom eco-home for just £100,000 each.
- Outline plans that could potentially deliver 100+ custom built homes on part of the **London Olympic** site.
- A pioneering regeneration project in **Cornwall** that will provide around 80 custom build homes on a former tin mine site.
- Two projects in the North East – one that will deliver 39 serviced building plots at **Newcastle Great Park**; and another in **Middlesbrough** that should provide scores more innovative self build homes.
- Proposals for 150 self build homes as part of a new town to the west of **Cambridge**.
- A new site for 50-60 self build homes in **Shrewsbury**.
- A 91 home high-tech zero energy self build project near **Plymouth**.

The Chair of the National Self Build Association (NaSBA), Ted Stevens said: "These projects will transform the UK self build sector and provide a real showcase for the many innovative ways more self or custom built homes can be delivered. The pioneering councils and developers that are involved are to be applauded for their vision and enterprise".

National Self Build Week is a new campaign being run by NaSBA and the organisers of the Grand Designs Live exhibition, which takes place at Excel during the week. It is supported by the Department for Communities and Local Government, and many of the companies active in the self build sector.

During the Week there will be series of high-level debates and other events at Grand Designs Live featuring the Housing Minister Mark Prisk MP and Planning Minister Nick Boles, alongside TV presenters Kevin McCloud and George Clarke.

On Saturday 4 May the Housing Minister will formally launch the Week and unveil a number of initiatives to help grow the sector. These include a new 'Need-a-Plot' feature on The Self Build Portal, and the launch of a Guide aimed at local authorities, regeneration agencies and housing associations.

Welcoming the new facility on The Self Build Portal the Minister said: "One of the main barriers self-builders have faced in the past has been to find a suitable plot on which to build their dream home. We've been determined to tackle this, ensuring through our planning reforms that councils must consider the needs of those looking to self-build when drawing up their local plans for development. So I'm delighted that the Self-Build Portal will now include a 'Plot Wanted' feature, so aspiring self-builders can put their call out to landowners and agents and find the site that's right for them."

The Minister also applauded the new guidance for public sector organisations saying: "This excellent Guide provides councils and housing associations with a good overview of the many ways they can encourage self build in their area. Some councils are already doing this, but others could do much more. So I urge them to use this Guide to ensure people in their local community can also have the opportunity to build their own home".

The document (to become available free from NaSBA's website) showcases the many ways it's now possible to encourage larger scale self build projects.

Regionally there are events taking place across the UK – from Open Days, to seminars and various firms offering special discounts. Full details of the Week can be found on the [NaSBA website](#).

**ENDS**

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For further information contact:

Ted Stevens on 07860 336087 or [chair@nasba.org.uk](mailto:chair@nasba.org.uk)

Notes:

*An Ipsos MORI poll conducted earlier this year shows that around six million people in Britain are currently planning or researching how to build a home for themselves and want to start their new home in the next year or so. The survey also suggests that one million people have already moved from the 'researching' to the 'action' stage, and are currently in the process of acquiring a building plot, obtaining planning permission or expect to start construction in the next 12 months. Despite all this interest, in 2012 only around 12,000 Britons managed to build a home this way. And the UK's self build output is a fraction of that delivered by most European countries.*

*One of the key aims of the initiative is to help more people understand the many ways it is now possible to get a home built. For example the Week will help explain what a Custom Build Home is; it will showcase some of the more innovative ways local authorities, specialist developers/enablers and others have been pioneering the delivery of self build homes; and it will provide lots of practical advice for would-be self builders.*

*Welcoming the launch of the Week, self build industry champion, Grand Designs presenter and live show host Kevin McCloud said: "The great news is that six million people are looking into the feasibility of undertaking a self build project. But we also know that nowhere near this number currently manage to build a home for themselves every year – in 2012 only around 12,000 people managed to do it. So, one of the key aims of the Week is to help would-be self builders climb the learning curve so they really can turn their projects from a dream to a reality. The options out there, from full-on self-build to custom-build and even self-finish homes make it possible for nigh-on everybody."*

*"The Ipsos MORI survey shows that there is a huge appetite to build a home in the UK and we are really determined to help more of them achieve it. When you build a house for yourself you get the home you really want, designed to precisely fit your needs. It's often more affordable too. If we were able to build more homes this way we'd also help the wider economy – every new self build home safeguards seven jobs in the construction industry for a year, and it injects tens of thousands of pounds into the local economy. And self builders usually make their homes much greener than others"*

*Housing Minister Mark Prisk MP said: "I wholeheartedly support this initiative. This Government is determined to help make building your own home easier for everyone and the National Self Build Week*

*is a further step towards achieving this ambition. NaSBA's survey gives us reason for optimism that this is already starting to happen, but we must maintain the momentum which is building around this sector and continue to maximise our efforts to help all those people who want to build their own home."*

*George Clarke, the presenter of the Restoration Man programme is also a keen supporter of the week. "There are huge numbers of people in Britain keen to build a home for themselves, so this Week should help to shine the spotlight on the challenge. Its key aim is to explain the many new ways it's now possible to get self or custom build projects off the ground. I am really excited by some of the main events that are being planned for the Week itself, and I'm sure it will help many more families get the homes they really want".*