

# CESW Newsletter #1 – Oct 05

Alan Mossman writes:

*NB: All email addresses have been broken to prevent spamming*

Welcome to the first issue of Constructing Excellence South West's (CESW) newsletter.

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CESW's mission is *to communicate, promote and implement the principles of Rethinking Construction in the South West.*

The purpose of this occasional newsletter is to pass on ideas, links and thoughts about ways we can do, and are doing, our mission. I see a key part of the role of CESW as being to promote conversations and relationships that have the potential to create improvements in the way we “do” design and construction. I want this newsletter to contribute to that process.

I have long felt that a major part of what our industry has to do is to rethink the construction process end-to-end to check what is creating value for our clients and end users and what is just adding costs to our organisations – and then to eliminate the latter. I am privileged to be embarking on just that process with one of my two remaining clients, a developer and house builder in Scotland, looking at projects from initial conception to handing over the keys to new owners. I will report on that process from time to time.

I believe that there are companies in the region that are doing something similar. I hope that you will **let me know** who you are and **contribute articles** for future issues of the newsletter.

Alongside them I plan to include reports of good practice anywhere along the construction supply chain and to report on events in and outside the region that may be of interest. **Please let me know if there are other topics that you would like to see.**

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## 7th Lean Construction Congress in San Francisco

Last month I attended the Lean Construction Institute's 7th Annual Congress in San Francisco. This three day event attracted around 140 practitioners from the UK, Finland, Denmark, Chile, Brazil and the US with a handful of academics to hear practitioners talking about their experience of implementing lean. Speakers included clients, main contractors, architects, lawyers, engineers and shipbuilders. Some of them have been working with lean for a number of years, others are only just beginning. The reports covered experience in the UK, Chile, as well as the USA.

Rather than repeat what someone else has already done well, I suggest that if you want to know more you read the reports on Hal Macomber's blog “Reforming Project Management” <http://www.reformingprojectmanagement.com/2005/09/21/513/>. [<http://www.reformingprojectmanagement.com/2005/09/21/513/>](http://www.reformingprojectmanagement.com/2005/09/21/513/) If, after you have read Hal's report, you want to look at the PowerPoint slides or listen to the presentation as an .mp3 go to <http://www.leanconstruction.org/files>.

BTW Hal's site has lots of information to help you rethink your construction process. It is worth exploring and bookmarking.

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## Sustainable construction

When friends and acquaintances heard about my new job the most frequent question they asked was along the lines of “is this about sustainability?”. CESW’s Task Group 3’s focus is Sustainability and Lesley Seymour, Project Manager at Future Foundations (FF) is Leader of TG3. Before taking the helm at FF, Lesley’s career has included working as a project manager for Halcrow . I asked her to explain what FF does and how FF might help construction organisations. This is what she wrote:

Future Foundations web site <http://www.futurefoundations.co.uk> provides a set of 17 principles that helps to define sustainable construction. Each principle is described along with key questions for consideration and some useful references. It is not meant to be a definitive guide but provide a framework to help deliver sustainable construction.

Engaging with sustainable construction can feel like taking a degree in initiatives and three letter acronyms. To help provide a common benchmark for discussing commitment to sustainable construction your organisation can ‘sign up’ to the Future Foundations Charter and join the other 130+ organizations in the South West Region that use Future Foundations to identify, promote and share their commitment to sustainable construction.

The Future Foundation steering group has representatives from the many sectors of construction, clients, policy makers, contractors and developers. All members deliver, share and promote sustainable construction in their area of influence. Joining together as Future Foundations we are engaged in a number of regional projects to realize greater opportunities for sustainable construction opportunities and address barriers.

As construction professionals we have a major role to play in delivering sustainable development - the time to act is now.

For more information please contact Lesley:

[mailto:benchmark@futurefoundations.co.uk?subject=Re: your article in CESW Newsletter #1](mailto:benchmark@futurefoundations.co.uk?subject=Re:_your_article_in_CESW_Newsletter_#1)

Leslie sits on the Advisory Board of the **Genesis Project**, the regional sustainable construction resource centre in Taunton. There is an introduction to the project and some of the design and development issues encountered on 2 November. For info [mailto:sam.mcintyre@somerset.ac.uk?subject=Road to Genesis info please](mailto:sam.mcintyre@somerset.ac.uk?subject=Road_to_Genesis_info_please)

[sam.mcintyre@somerset.ac.uk?subject=Road to Genesis info please](mailto:sam.mcintyre@somerset.ac.uk?subject=Road_to_Genesis_info_please)

I will ask the leaders of CESW’s other task groups – **Skills, Procurement, Best Practice, Health and Safety** – to report in future issues.

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## Regional Economic Strategy (RES) – consultation on the draft

I am convening meetings in November (afternoons of 11 and 22) to coordinate a single construction industry response to SWRDA’s draft RES. **Please let me know if you would like an invitation to those meetings.** The deadline for responses is 9 December.

Copies of the RES can be downloaded at:

<http://www.southwestrda.org.uk/what-we-do/policy/res-review2005/draft-res.shtm>

FYI: there will be joint consultation events giving stakeholders an opportunity to contribute to the development of both the draft Regional Economic Strategy and the draft Regional Spatial Strategy:

- 24 November - New Continental, Plymouth
- 25 November - Lighthouse Centre, Poole
- 30 November - the Thistle, Exeter
- 2 December - Queen's Hotel, Cheltenham

If you would like to attend please contact Viv James at the Regional Assembly by 11 November.  
[mailto:vivien.james@southwest-ra.gov.uk?subject=RES/RSS consultation](mailto:vivien.james@southwest-ra.gov.uk?subject=RES/RSS_consultation) Tel: 01823 425204

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## ***Lets Play Catch! Securing reliable promises***

Failing to secure reliable promises from others in the construction supply chain is a major cause of delay on projects.

In the weeks immediately preceding starting my new job at CESW I took Hal Macomber's *Lets Play catch* mini-course. Sub-titled *getting BIG things done working with others* this free 10 lesson email course is an excellent introduction to securing reliable promises. Learn more at <http://www.letsplaycatch.com/> or **just do it** by sending a blank email to [mini.course@letsplaycatch.com](mailto:mini.course@letsplaycatch.com) – and please let me know how you rate it.

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## **Champagne – the newsletter needs a title?**

**Does this newsletter need a title?** Let us know what you think. If you think it does why not make a suggestion. There is a bottle of champagne for the best suggestion [or if the decision is not to have one] to the first respondent drawn out of the hat. At the same time please tell us what you like about this first issue, what you would like to change and what you want to see in future issues.

[mailto:alan.mossman@cesw.org.uk?subject=Newsletter\\_title](mailto:alan.mossman@cesw.org.uk?subject=Newsletter_title)

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## ***Energy Technologies in New Developments***

*Gareth Walton* [gareth.walton@dsbi.org.uk](mailto:gareth.walton@dsbi.org.uk), Director of the Devon Sustainable Building Initiative, writes:

I thought you might be interested in a report on our *Energy Technologies in New Developments* seminar held at the University of Exeter last month. The seminar covered issues in energy and climate change affecting new developments, including:

- Current & emerging policy regarding energy for new developments direct from the policy makers.
- Case studies of new developments that have successfully used best practice energy technologies.
- How using best practice energy technologies in new developments can create added value.

The seminar was attended by close to 100 people including architects, engineers, land owners, developers, councillors, academics, renewable energy suppliers, local authorities, NGOs & central & regional government & the feedback from the attendees was very positive.

Download presentations as pdfs at [http://www.sustainablebuild.org/exeter\\_pres.html](http://www.sustainablebuild.org/exeter_pres.html).

**Rachel Crisp** (DTI) described the proposed policies in the Government's microgeneration strategy & low carbon buildings programme, the outcomes the Government wants to see & where the process goes from now with the consultation period just closed.

**Damian Bree** looked at some of the projects Bree Day Architects has been involved in & the technologies used & costs involved.

The South West Regional Assembly's Regional Policy Manager, **Craig Frost**, detailed how the Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) currently under development aims to make sustainable construction the norm rather than the exception through a range of measures including the requirement of onsite renewable energy generation in all major new developments. Craig also outlined the next steps in the development of the RSS.

In a joint presentation, **Zoë Lucas** from Savills & **Sonny Masero** from Energy for Sustainable Development (ESD) covered some of the sustainable developments they have been involved in & described research by Savills which showed a premium of 15% on the value of the sustainable

BedZed development relative to comparable housing in the area.

Devon County Council's Climate Change Officer, **Ian Bateman**, outlined where the greenhouse emissions come from in an average Devon household & the things that can be done to design houses both to reduce emissions & adapt to the future climate, which could mean a 23% increase in winter rain & 55% decrease in summer rain by 2080 & what are currently 1-in-200 year floods becoming 1-in-12 or 1-in-20 year events.

Together with **John Thorp**, Director of the Energy Conservation and Solar Centre (ECSC), Woking Borough Council's Executive Director **Ray Morgan** described how Woking BC reduced its energy demand by -50% in a decade – savings they re-invested in onsite renewable energy generation. WBC now generates 97% of its own power, has 9% of the UK's solar PV capacity, its first fuel cell & has significantly reduce greenhouse emissions.

**Tony Norton** from the Centre for Energy and the Environment at the University of Exeter covered the emerging issues, such as rising temperature, increasing fuel costs & the ability to design & build houses with no need for space heating, which we should be taking into consideration today as we build the houses of tomorrow.

A case study of Westlea Housing Association's sustainable housing refurbishment & new build projects was provided by **Stephen Parker**, now Principal Consultant at Degrees of Green.

**Paul Murrain**, Urban Design Advisor to Red Tree, the developers of the proposed Sherford New Community in South Devon, explained how Sherford was trying to marry the aesthetic & the sustainable to come up with 4,000 new homes that both looked beautiful & met the highest sustainability rating - EcoHomes excellent.

**Cornwall Sustainable Buildings Trust** have a workshop on 24 November in County Hall, Truro 0930-1600. For info about **Building Sustainably in Cornwall** [mailto:gina@csbt.org.uk?subject=Building\\_Sustainably\\_in\\_Cornwall](mailto:gina@csbt.org.uk?subject=Building_Sustainably_in_Cornwall)

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If you would like to receive future issues please sign up at <http://groups.google.com/group/CESW-Newsletter>

For details of CESW and related events please [mailto:helen.davies@cesw.org.uk?subject=please\\_add\\_me\\_to\\_CESW\\_mailing\\_list](mailto:helen.davies@cesw.org.uk?subject=please_add_me_to_CESW_mailing_list).

Finally – please tell me what you think of the newsletter, what you want to see and what you are proud of doing to improve the overall construction process – or even just the bit you are responsible for.

Thanks for reading

With best wishes

Alan

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