

HAB housing talk – Thursday 8 September 2016



On Thursday 8 September the group was joined by Catherine Haigh (Landscape Architect) and Tom Griffiths (Development Manager) of HAB Housing Ltd. Their talk on the Lovedon Fields development covered the history the project and the plans for the future.

HAB Housing Ltd was formed by Kevin McCloud in 2007 with the aim of creating housing which fits the landscape and community, is environmentally sustainable and attractive. HAB stands for Happiness, Architecture, Beauty.

HAB Housing Ltd first became aware of the Lovedon Fields site when they were contacted by Sarah Gray. Sarah is a member of the Gray family of Grace's Farm, Martyr Worthy and is very keen on sustainability. If the Gray family had offered the land for sale on the open market it is unlikely that HAB Housing Ltd would be developing the site now as they struggle to compete with the likes of Barratt Homes.

The HAB Housing Ltd team first visited the site 2 ½ - 3 years ago and began to consider the layout of the development. In doing this the following thoughts were key:-

- They wanted to leave green space between the villages of Kings Worthy and Abbots Worthy
- They needed to consider the proximity of the South Downs national park
- The houses should be an extension of Kings Worthy
- Building 50 houses would mean there was enough land to be turned into an extension of Eversley Park
- The views of the development from Hinton House Drive and Eversley Park needed to be considered
- They wanted to preserve a rural edge to the village of Kings Worthy

HAB Housing Ltd value the history and archaeology of their sites. They studied maps from 300 and 100 years ago that were provided by the Worthys Local History Group. Wessex Archaeology were

appointed to carry out an archaeological survey which started with a geophysical examination of the site. Trenches were dug in early 2015 and the following features were found:-

- Human remains of a six year old child from the neolithic period
- A prehistoric hearth
- Plough margins with ridges between depressions

One of the Time Team archaeologists described the site as the best preserved field he had seen for 30 years!

As well as the history and archaeology of the site, HAB Housing Ltd were also very concerned with the natural environment. Slow worms were discovered and moved to another habitat in time for their annual hibernation. A year long dormice survey was carried out but in the end they decided to design the site with dormice in mind.

Catherine is not keen on fences so she has designed boundaries in the form of hedging and green screens. The houses with gates into the park will have wooden gates with climbers going up and over. Each house will have a nesting box built in for birds and Catherine is hopeful of attracting swifts. The park will be a wild flower meadow which will take time to establish from scratch. There will be a mile long natural path around the park which will be suitable for bikes, wheelchairs, walking and running. There will also be allotments, an orchard and play space.

HAB Housing Ltd hope to handover the site to the control of the parish in spring 2019 but likely to be a phased handover. There will be an opportunity to visit the site in around three months time.

Catherine and Tom were thanked for taking time to talk about the Lovedon Fields development. Their enthusiasm for the project and the ethos of HAB Housing Ltd was evident.

CHOOSE YOUR HOME AT LOVEDON FIELDS

HOMES TO BUY

- The Short House (3 bed)
- The T-House (3 bed)
- The Chimney House (4 bed)
- The Corner House (4 bed)
- The Long House (5 bed)
- The Gallery House (5 bed)

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

- The Pavilions (1-2 bed)
- The Snug House (2 bed)
- The Short House (3 bed)

GARAGE & ROOF TERRACE

- Garage
- Garage & Roof Terrace
- Roof Terrace



LOVEDON FIELDS

Disclaimer. Please see inside rear cover.

Alix Hickman
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