

HAB Housing Visit, Lovedon Fields
Review by Phoebe McQueen
Photos by Stu Hickman

Being an Interior Design student and having grown up in Kings Worthy, I was interested in finding out the details of the “new HAB houses on Lovedon Lane” that people were talking about. Recently, I was lucky enough to be part of the Worthys Local History Group tour of the Lovedon Fields development. After having listened to a talk by Kevin McCloud, the chairman of HAB, we were then introduced to the sustainability of the housing.

Sustainability is a key theme that runs throughout my course and will also play a huge part in the body of my final dissertation. Therefore, learning that the houses have had almost every aspect considered in terms of how they effect the environment, was reassuring. In fact, I was shocked at the number of elements that can be altered to become more environmentally friendly. One aspect is the Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDS), where rainwater is managed and channeled back into the soil, reducing the need for metal drains and decreasing the risk of flooding. Other features include solar tiled roofs, high performance glazing used on all windows and LED lighting throughout. HAB are also using two new designs to improve energy efficiency; one being Mechanical Ventilation Systems that uses vents to remove humid air from within the house, whilst retaining and recycling the heat back into the houses. The other is the SMART housing system, meaning that all electrics and heating can be managed from a mobile.



All this has been designed with the aim to make the 50 houses in the development a community, through the inclusion of allotments, fruit trees and proposed cycle tracks which will benefit all ages. A clever exterior proposal is to have a different type of fruit tree planted in neighbouring gardens, with the aim

to allow neighbours to share their produce, thus creating connections through nature.



It will be interesting to see how the new sustainable proposals contribute in developing the community environment desired, within the next year and the long-term future.

