



PRESS RELEASE

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MP support for steel-framed homes

MP and CLG member Dr Phyllis Starkey showed her support for steel-framed housing, with a recent visit to a Milton Keynes construction site.

The visit, organised by the Steel Homes Group, saw Group chair Dr Bassam Burgan and Group member Robert Clark (UK Manager of Fusion), explain the theory behind steel-framed homes. Dr Starkey then enjoyed a tour of the Paul Newman New Home site's residential housing, seeing the practical benefits of steel construction.

As chair of the CLG Select Committee, Dr Starkey is responsible for monitoring the work of the government department, which includes housing within its remit. The event was also attended by English Partnership Regional Director John Lewis.

The construction site at Ashland uses steel frames, built in a factory and put together on-site. The technique has considerable environmental benefits, from reducing the amount of waste produced to lowering the volume of traffic involved – important given the construction industry produces half a tonne of waste for every person in the UK and is responsible for ten per cent of road traffic.

Dr Starkey, whose constituency the Ashland site is in, commented:

"It was very helpful to see how steel frame houses are constructed and the advantages in terms of energy efficiency and time and resource savings that can be achieved through using modern methods of construction. The finished apartments and houses are extremely attractive and I am sure my constituents will be queuing up to move into such well-designed and affordable homes."

Dr Bassam Burgan is chair of the Steel Homes Group, an industry body formed to promote the advantages steel framed houses can offer. He said:

"It is always good to see politicians taking an interest in how an industry is being modernised, especially when those changes are bringing such benefits in terms of sustainability. The Milton Keynes site is a great example of steel-framing being used in an apartment block, where it not only offers environmental benefits, but also helps to keep costs down. This really is the future of construction – it is good value, sustainable and of a very high quality."

A recent survey commissioned by the Steel Homes Group found 85 per cent of UK adults consider sustainability important.

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Notes to Editors:

The Steel Homes Group is an industry body formed to consider the advantages steel framed buildings can offer, with specific regard to the superior quality and sustainability benefits of off-site construction. Members represent a range of businesses from across the industry, headed by Deputy Director of SCI Dr Bassam Burgan.

Image - Paul Newman (CEO and Chairman of developers Paul Newman New Homes), Robert Clark (UK General Manager of steel frame manufacturers Fusion, Dr Phyllis Starkey MP, Dr Bassam Burgan.

