

STOP PRESS: Good news in the local property market !

If you thought the property market was all doom and gloom, you will be as delighted as we are to hear a positive story!

W Lucy & Co Ltd has been a prominent business in Oxford for over 250 years. Their property division have been working in the thriving Oxford property market since the 1950s and over this time have built up a portfolio of over 300 properties. The latest venture being a development with a difference!

Built on the site of the old Eagle Works in Jericho, Lucy Properties have constructed a small development of eco friendly apartments and a family home. "We wanted to embrace the trend towards sustainable building and living, so the idea to build our next development to strict eco standards seemed the obvious choice." said Ian Ashcroft, Property Director at Lucy Properties.

The project is the culmination of three years of planning, and the collaboration of many local companies in the design and construction. Locally based Riach Architects were commissioned to put together the design, Cooper Construction were awarded the build contract, and Jill Treloggen Interiors provided the finishing touches. "For us, being eco friendly meant looking at every aspect of how we delivered the project - for instance, working with local suppliers cuts down travel." says Ian.

Eco build standards are very exacting and every element had to pass strict guidelines, from the origin of materials used, to installing facilities for recycling and living a 'greener' lifestyle once the properties are lived in. Building Manager, Mark Hilton explained "we used natural slate on the roof, Cedar cladding and lime mortar and brick so that the exterior of the building would sit well in the leafy area surrounding the development." In addition the high performance double glazing is designed to draw as much heat from the winter sun as possible, whilst the 'A' rated energy efficient boiler powers a combination of under floor and radiator heating.

The sustainable living elements that have been included are - built in recycling bins to all the kitchens, water efficient w.c. cisterns, low energy lighting and bike stores to encourage peddle power! "The final development has been awarded a Sustainable Housing Rating of 3, which is an excellent achievement we are delighted with" says Ian

Once construction had finished the eco theme did not stop there. Working together with local interior company Jill Treloggen Interiors, the environmentally friendly approach continues with the furnishings. "We wanted to continue all the thought and hard work that had gone into the construction, with the approach we took with the interiors" says Jill Treloggen, Director of Jill Treloggen Interiors " We had to balance the right design and finish required for city centre apartments, with an eco friendly approach." Sourcing all the upholstery from local suppliers to keep the product miles to a minimum, the team also used low energy lighting throughout, and even used some recycled products - for instance clocks made from recycled vending machine cups!

The development is now complete with three 1 bedroom, and three 2 bedroom fully furnished apartments available to rent directly from Lucy Properties, and a 5 bedroom house available in the new year. "We have been delighted at the response to these properties, most are already let - but we have kept one of the 1 bedroom properties to let as short or holiday lets." says Ian.