

SUSTAINABLE DESIGNS ON YOU

COMMITTEE MEMBERS COURSE OUTLINE



WEEK ONE

Sustainable design - what's it all about?

Getting to grips with sustainable development and putting sustainable design into context. The course covers:

- What is sustainable design?
- Why is it important?
- What can housing contribute?
- What have housing associations to contribute?
- What are sustainable communities?
- How sustainable is your housing association?
- Where does design fit in?
- Why should we change?
- What are we going to do over the next few weeks?

This week is taken by the course co-ordinator

WEEK TWO

Getting started - location, location, location

This week starts with two case studies showing the diversity of approach:

1. A presentation by a Fairfield Housing Co-operative Director, Grant Ager, and a committee member on the history and approach of the association.
2. A presentation on Crown Street Regeneration, by Brian Fitch. Director of New Gorbals Housing Association.

The session will then focus on exploring the main themes:

1. Where you build or refurbish your houses is important, for example:

- Brownfield versus greenfield site
- Reuse of existing buildings
- Transport links, walking, cycling and car free
- Mixed use developments
- High densities
- The the planning system
- Planning communities – the challenges (including secured by design, planning)
- Creating and supporting biodiversity

2. Layouts to create sustainable communities:

- Climate
- Orientation
- Passive solar gain

WEEK THREE

Save, save, save

Topics covered include:

Saving the planet and saving your tenants money:

- Why is it important?
- Being an informed client
- Looking at energy in a different way – using the sun and the wind
- Reducing energy demand
- Water conservation
- Waste management – both during construction and in the long term

This week starts with an introduction by the coordinator, followed by case studies from the following housing association development staff and architects:

- Susan Napier, Canmore Housing Association with Hackland & Dore Architects
- Trish Baxter, Perthshire Housing Association
- Neil Whitelaw, Partick Housing Association
- John Gilbert, John Gilbert Architects

WEEK FOUR

Their life in your hands – a healthy environment

This week is in two parts:

First, looking at materials with a presentation from Howard Liddell of Gaia Architects:

- The important principles to provide a healthy environment
- Where do you get them from?
- How safe are they?
- Ventilation and heating systems
- Keeping illnesses at bay

Second, looking at maintenance, with a presentation from Susan Napier of Canmore Housing Association

- How do you maintain your buildings?
- Health and safety
- Specifications

STUDY DAY

Site visits to local housing developments showing examples of sustainable design. Guided tours were provided by the housing associations and architects involved in the projects. The site visits are for both Committee Members and Staff.

Locations visited include:

- Shettleston Housing Association
 - Glenalmond Street new build development
- Spire View Housing Association
 - James Nisbet St refurbishment
- New Gorbals Housing Association
 - Crown Street, new build development
- Govanhill Housing Association
 - Royal Samaritan Hospital rehabilitation

FINAL SESSION

Putting it all together

This panel session was held at The Lighthouse and pulled together the key themes raised during the training course. The range of issues addressed included:

- How do we put all this into practice?
- What are the cost implications?
- Looking at costs in a different way – cost in use, lifetime costs
- Private finance and insurances
- Where can housing associations get help?
- Choosing an architect and design team
- What can organisations such as Communities Scotland do?
- Other resources, e.g. the Sust. Green Directory of materials
- The role of the committee member
- Monitoring
- Creating a network of support

This panel members were from various organisations that can provide support and funding to housing associations, including:

Scottish Executive – Paul Stollard, Building Standards
Communities Scotland – Ian Williamson, Acting Director of Investment and Performance
RIAS – Sebastian Tombs, Secretary
SFHA – Misia Jack, Policy Officer
NHBC – Malcolm MacLeod, Scottish Officer
Energy Savings Trust – Mike Thornton
Glasgow Housing Association – Michael Lennon, Chief Executive

Each gave a short introduction explaining what their role is and how they can help create sustainable design. This was followed by a question and answer session.

Sust.: The Lighthouse on Sustainability aims to raise awareness of sustainable design in architecture. It was devised by The Lighthouse: Scotland's Centre for Architecture, Design and the City on behalf of the Scottish Executive and in support of the aims of the Policy on Architecture. It is funded by the Sustainable Action Fund.

www.sust.org