

## Construction starts on UK's first development of plastic free homes



Accord Housing Association has started work on the UK's first development of virtually plastic free homes with an online event to mark the occasion.

The virtual event attracted international attention with over 100 people watching from across Europe to see work start to transform the site of a former factory carpark into one bedroom apartments.

The unique project, based in Redditch, will deliver 12 affordable homes built using plastic free alternatives to reduce environmental impact. Â

The development is the result of collaborative working with Redditch Borough Council, and is part of the CHARM (Circular Housing Asset Renovation & Management) partnership, made up of representatives from four European countries: the UK, France, Belgium and the Netherlands.

Carl Taylor, Assistant Director of New Business at Accord said: "We have been investing in low carbon housing solutions for many years. This development leads the way to reducing plastic consumption within construction, showing what is possible and achievable. Our aim is to develop a low carbon, low plastic model for providing affordable homes on a large scale."

The new homes are being constructed using timber panels from Accord's award winning, low carbon manufacturing facility, LoCaL Homes. Each apartment will feature high end finishes, with plastic free alternatives installed such as wooden kitchen units and window frames, wiring using a mineral based insulation rather than the usual plastic, and solar thermal heating systems which will provide low running costs.

Bill Hartnett, Chair of Redditch Co-operative Homes (RCH) said: "As chair of RCH and a local Redditch councillor I was proud and excited to attend the virtual sod cutting marking the start of this virtual plastic free housing development which is the first of its type in Europe. I believe that developments such as these are the future and that this will be a

fantastic green and eco-friendly development".

The project which is due to complete in March 2022, has received Â£1.2m EU funding from the INTERREG North West Europe funding partnership, allowing Accord to research the reduction and removal of plastic in a real world large scale project; paving the way for a future of plastic free construction.

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