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RIGHT TO BUILD TASK FORCE ANNOUNCES DEPUTY AMBASSADORS

Three new experts join NaCSBA's expert team to aid the growth of Custom and Self Build housing in the UK

The National Custom and Self Build Association's (NaCSBA) Task Force has today, 17th August, announced its three latest recruits, who will be joining the expert team as ambassadors to help boost and integrate Custom and Self Build housing across the UK.

NaCSBA's founder Ted Stevens OBE, along with Councillors Jeremy Christophers and Barry Wood (of Teignbridge and Cherwell respectively) will be joining the team to support Richard Bacon MP to champion the work of the Task Force at a political and community level. The announcement was made during a visit to see progress at Graven Hill, Bicester, the UK's largest Custom and Self Build housing development to date. Graven Hill is a council-led scheme and will comprise up to 1,900 homes.

Richard Bacon MP, who initiated the Right to Build legislation said: "Custom and Self Build housing will only become mainstream if local authorities and other organisations show real leadership and truly harness the Right to Build. I welcome my fellow ambassadors and invite them to help me engage with our local authority colleagues to change the way our broken housing market works and enable thousands more people to build their own homes."

Ted Stevens, former NaCSBA Chair, was awarded an OBE in 2014 for his work in developing the Self Build sector. He has international experience in both Custom and Self Build housing, as well as strong contacts within Government, the wider housing industry and the media. Ted, who is himself a self builder, will be leading the Task Force's engagement with the community-led housing sector.

Jeremy Christophers is leader of Teignbridge District Council in Devon, one of the Government's Right to Build vanguard authorities, announced in 2014. Christophers is no stranger to Self Build housing, after successfully developing his own home; he has long championed this form of housing in Teignbridge.



Barry Wood is leader of Cherwell District Council, another Right to Build vanguard. Wood has been instrumental in initiating the project at Graven Hill, which forms part of the Bicester Garden Town development and is being implemented by the council-owned Graven Hill Village Development Company (GHVDC).

Regarding the new appointments, Mario Wolf, the recently appointed Task Force director, said: “Lessons from projects in other parts of Europe have shown that for Custom and Self Build developments to be successful at scale, various things are crucial: Political support, strong leadership, a clear vision and a willingness to adopt new approaches to housing delivery. In Jeremy, Barry and Ted we have an excellent trio of leaders to champion our work and I look forward to working with them.”

Michael Holmes, Chair of NaCSBA, commented: “I am delighted that we have secured such high calibre and enthusiastic Custom and Self Build ambassadors. Their work with local authorities and communities will unlock the political will to enable other projects coming forward up and down the country.”

Today’s announcement comes ahead of the Task Force’s first regional Right to Build Expo event, which will be held on 18 September in Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire. The Expo will be attended by Alok Sharma MP, Minister of State for Housing and Planning. Attendees will see the work of the Task Force in action and the role that Custom and Self Build housing can play in diversifying the UK housing market.

ENDS

Notes to Editors:

- Biographies of all the Deputy Ambassadors and Richard Bacon are at www.righttobuildtoolkit.org.uk
- Details of the Right to Build Expo event in Aylesbury, and how to register, can be found at <https://www.righttobuildportal.org/news-events/right-build-expo-unlocking-potential-custom-self-build-housing/>
- Details of Graven Hill can be found at <https://gravenhill.co.uk/>
- NaCSBA was formed in 2008 as a network of companies and individuals with the common aim of proving that custom and self-build housing can make a significant contribution to home building in the UK. NaCSBA’s objective is to make affordable, high quality, individually designed, sustainable homes an option for the many, not just the few.



- The Task Force is funded by the Nationwide Foundation, which aims to increase the availability of decent affordable homes for people in housing need. The Nationwide Foundation is a registered charity (number 1065552) and an independent funder of charitable causes. Its vision is for everyone in the UK to have access to a decent home which they can afford.
- The Task Force was endorsed by the Government in its White Paper *Fixing our broken housing market* and is being supported by several partners including the Building and Social Housing Foundation, Local Government Association, National Housing Federation, Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors and Royal Town Planning Institute.
- The Right to Build was established in England in 2016 through two legal obligations on Local Authorities. Under the Self-build and Custom Housebuilding Act 2015 all local authorities in England must keep a register of individuals and associations of individuals who are seeking to acquire serviced plots of land in the authority's area and to have regard to that register when carrying out their functions. The Housing and Planning Act 2016 requires all local authorities in England to grant sufficient 'development permissions' to meet the demand for self-build and custom housebuilding in their area, as established by their register, on a rolling basis.
- In December 2016, NaCSBA research revealed that 18,000 people had registered on Local Authority 'Right to Build' registers across England by 31st October 2016. Many more have registered since. Further details of the English Local Authorities with demand registers can be found at www.righttobuildportal.org
- Since its launch the Task Force has received significant interest for support from organisations nationwide, with Buckinghamshire Advantage and the North Northamptonshire Joint Planning Unit being its first high profile clients. Organisations seeking assistance from the Task Force and prospective experts can initially register their interest at www.righttobuildtoolkit.org.uk which contains full details of the Task Force. Further details on what information should be submitted, selection criteria and conditions for receiving support will then be sent to interested parties.
- Further details on the work of the Task Force and its membership will be announced soon.
- For further press information on the Task Force contact: Bryony Harrington on 07753273355 or on taskforce@nacsba.org

