



SURGO NETS THREE NEW PROJECTS WITH A COMBINED VALUE IN EXCESS OF £11M

Southfields, Acklington
(Architect's image, which is subject
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AS WE GO TO PRESS, WE ARE DELIGHTED TO ANNOUNCE THE AWARD OF THREE NEW CONTRACTS WITH A COMBINED VALUE IN EXCESS OF £11M.

At Acklington, we have entered into a collaborative venture with private developer, Buchanan Estates, to build 16 new homes. The development, which will be called Southfields, has a build cost of £3m and will include six four-bed detached homes, eight three-bed semis and a couple of two-bedroom bungalows.

Located on the former site of RAF Acklington, which in its heyday, was a Royal Flying Corps and Royal Air Force station, Southfields is 3.2 miles south west of Amble and 8.8 miles north east of Morpeth within beautiful open countryside. Commenting on the joint venture with Surgo, a spokesman for Buchanan Estates said:

"Work will soon be underway on Southfields and we are delighted to be working with an established housebuilder like Surgo Construction who bring a great deal of expertise to the project."

Our second project win takes us back to Durham University – and our second contract to come from the university's 'small works framework'.

This time, working at Trevelyan College, we are refurbishing an existing student accommodation building, and fitting replacement bathrooms, undertaking window repairs and installing new fire doors. Starting mid-July and with a value of around £2.3m overall, the project will be undertaken within a tight timescale, so that the works are completed by early September, ready for the new student intake and next academic year. We are working on this scheme with P&HP Architects and Turner & Townsend.

Lastly, drawing on our skill for refurbishing and redeveloping listed buildings, we are pleased to have been appointed to a £6m+ scheme in Ponteland, which will involve the refurbishment of 23 existing listed buildings to create 17 four and five bedroom homes and six apartments/maisonettes.

We will be starting work imminently on the first of two contracts as part of a 67-week programme to create a range of accommodation at the top end of the market.

A LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Although there is still some uncertainty in the air over Brexit, Surgo is not letting the grass grow under its feet when it comes to training and development. We are continuing to invest in fresh talent and taking positive steps to upskill.

With the skills agenda continuing to be regarded as the 'elephant in the room' and given the high age profile of the current industry workforce, it is vital that regional companies invest in training, otherwise there will be no tradespeople to work on projects in ten years' time.

It is fitting to mention the work of two regional organisations, Constructing Excellence North East and Generation 4 Change (G4C), because both are doing their level best to attract more young people into the industry, particularly more females, by taking every opportunity to showcase the variety of interesting roles available to young people.

Within our own organisation, we take pride in the fact that our staff are regularly recognised by industry bodies such as Considerate Constructors and Local Authority Building Control for their skills, courtesy and professionalism on site, and for possessing the right attitude towards their roles.

I believe our success is a direct result of our regular 'toolbox talks' and the sharing of best practice between our site managers.

Let's do our best to keep the training and development agenda alive and well in the region with a view to safeguarding the industry's future.

Kind regards,

*Ian Walker
Chairman*



NEWS IN BRIEF



North Tyneside Council has appointed Surgo to undertake the £1.5million transformation of the top three floors of the Swans Centre for Innovation (CFI).

The project follows on from the success of the first phase of the CFI, which opened in 2016 and will provide an additional 940 square metres of refurbished office accommodation and meeting rooms, creating flexible space for up to 10 businesses.

Surgo is carrying out a full strip out of interior walls and building services to the vacant upper three floors as the project progresses. The reception area will also be reconfigured, and a new car park will be developed.

North Tyneside's Elected Mayor, Norma Redfearn CBE, attended the official launch of the project and said she was delighted to see work get underway, which will support Swans CFI's position as a popular place for the offshore energy and subsea sector to do business.

Jeff Alexander, director, Surgo Construction, added:

"It is great to have made a start on the next stage of transformation works at the CFI. We are delighted to have this opportunity to work on behalf of North Tyneside Council as it presses ahead with its ambitious investment in the borough to attract new and important businesses to the area."

STOP PRESS

We are working on a student accommodation development valued at around £5m on behalf of Silverstone Building Surveyors. The project will see the creation of 100 high end units and the scheme will get underway in September.



RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

Surgo is delighted to be working on several residential schemes at the present time.

We have been particularly active in the residential sector over the years and are enjoying the chance to put this expertise to good use on current housing projects.

In our last edition, we mentioned our appointment to two private residential developments, both of which comprise a range of luxury housing.

At Stannington, we are building a stunning development of 34 dwellings within a semi-rural setting on behalf of Willow Homes. Known as Nursery Gardens, the development includes two, three, four and five-bedroom high specification homes which are available in nine house types.

The show house was recently opened to the public and demand for new homes is steadily growing with seven already reserved or sold.

At Medburn, Ponteland, we currently have 32 plots at various stages of construction, so we are well beyond the half-way mark at this development of 50 four and five-bedroom new homes.

Jeff Charlton, construction director, is overseeing the Medburn development. He said: "When you are working on a scheme where there are seven different house types, constant attention to detail is required, so it can be quite challenging. However, the show houses, which have exceptional interiors, are now open to the public and have met with high acclaim, so there is understandably steady demand for these high-end homes."

The Medburn show houses



A new kitchen-diner at Nursery Gardens, Stannington

The housing scheme for DAMHA is making progress



Meanwhile, at Consett, construction is well underway on the £3.5 million transformation of the former Belle Vue Swim Centre on Ashlands Road into affordable homes for older people.

The development of 24 two-bed bungalows fulfil a need for this type of property. The project is being undertaken for Durham Aged Mineworkers' Homes Association (DAMHA) with funding support from the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) and is due for completion in January 2020.

As we go to press the groundworks are completed, the roads and sewers are in, the superstructures are under development and in two to three weeks, work will begin on the interiors.

Surgo won the tender on a best value / cost basis. Paul Mullis, DAMHA Chief Executive said: "There is a real shortage of high-quality two-bedroom bungalows for older people in the county, so like our other schemes, this development will help to meet the need for homes of this type".



COLLEGE STUDENTS GET A GLIMPSE OF SITE LIFE WITH SURGO

Continuing our support for Northumberland College, Surgo recently facilitated a site visit to Willow Homes at Stannington where 34 new homes are being built, to broaden their experience of what to expect on a construction site.

During their time on site, senior site manager, Paul Graham, put them through their site induction and talked through the build programme at Stannington so they could see at first-hand houses at various stages of development and understand exactly where and when their trades fit in to the construction sequencing.

Paul Graham (centre) pictured on site with students and lecturers from Northumberland College

ANNOUNCEMENTS

AS USUAL, SPACE CONSTRAINTS MEAN WE CAN ONLY MENTION EACH MEMBER OF STAFF BRIEFLY.

ARRIVALS

Welcome to Dean Glendinning, Surgo's new after sales manager, Wayne Smith, bricklayer and joiners Nigel Forsyth and John Stanners.

LONG SERVICE

On 23 May, Davy Fish completed 25 years of service.

WELCOME TO THE WORLD

Derek Patrick's second grandchild, Lucas, was born on 20 June.

AWARD-WINNING DUO

Congratulations to Len Ronayne and Stevie Forster who have both picked up Considerate Constructor awards since our last newsletter. Len won a bronze award for his sterling work at Collingwood College, Durham and Stevie Forster won the outstanding accolade of a gold award for his dedication at NETPark.

Thank you both for your continuing hard work and professionalism.



Jeff Alexander (l) presents Michael with his retirement gift

RETIREMENTS

Michael Chrisp left the company on 29th March after completing 39 years of dedicated service, latterly as after sales manager.