

Larkfleet celebrates success at the PECT eco awards

Eco-friendly families, businesses and community groups have been recognised at the annual Green Awards organised by the Peterborough Telegraph and Peterborough Environment City Trust (PECT).

The Larkfleet Group was delighted to win the Exemplar Green Businesses Award sponsored by Hunt & Coombes.

The panel of judges comprised PECT chief executive Carly Leonard; Ken McKay, honorary patron of PECT; Councillor Nigel North, Peterborough City

Council cabinet member for communities and environment capital; Nyree Ambarchian, associate director at Stand Agency; and Iain Crighton, president of the Cambridgeshire Chambers of Commerce and chairman of the Peterborough Chamber of Commerce.

“This unique event helps to celebrate and raise awareness of the achievements of individuals, businesses, schools and community groups across the city and surrounding areas,” explains Carly Leonard. “We have such a lot to be proud of, from our green spaces, to our vibrant community

groups, through to businesses that are leading the way in terms of embedding sustainability into their business models. The Green Awards are about celebrating how far we have come and how much we have achieved.”



Lark Energy Connects 91MWp of Solar Projects

In the first Quarter of 2015, Lark Energy completed construction and connected solar farm projects with a total capacity of 91.6MWp.

Of the connected capacity, Lark Energy developed 60.6MWp across 6 sites and assisted in the development of the remaining 31MWp.

Paul Adams, Managing Director of Lark Energy Ltd, responsible for the construction and operation of the solar farms, said “I am very proud that we were able to construct and connect these projects successfully in time for the very challenging end of March deadlines.

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It was a fantastic team effort involving not only our own staff but also our many partners and suppliers. Our strong relationship with the DNOs in each area was also instrumental in getting us over the line.

“We are also very grateful to our long-term funding partners Armstrong Energy, who funded all but one of the sites.”

Robin Chamberlayne, Director of Armstrong Energy Ltd, said “We thank Lark and our development partners for delivering this excellent portfolio of assets. Armstrong’s strategy is to provide investors with excellent returns from financing the construction and operation of energy infrastructure, and we now expect these solar assets to deliver very positive return for our investors.”

Larkfleet sponsors Run in the Woods

Two Larkfleet Group companies – Larkfleet Homes and Lark Energy – were among the sponsors for the Run in the Woods organised by Bourne Rotary Club on Sunday 26th April.

Last year more than 2,000 runners took part in the event, raising over £4,000 for charity. With the weather on the day dry and sunny but relatively cool it was ideal running weather. We saw an even larger field of contestants.

There were two runs to choose from – a 3 kilometre fun run and a 10 kilometre route for more serious competitors.

The Run in the Woods was organised entirely by unpaid volunteers, with all proceeds being donated to charitable causes.

Larkfleet CEO Karl Hick, himself a keen runner, took part in the London Marathon to raise money for charity, said: “This is a great way to help a good cause – or just take part for the fun of it.”



It's official! Rutland is the most desirable location to live in the UK

Rutland is known for its charming market towns and unspoilt villages. It can also now lay claim to being the most desirable location to live in the UK, so says the results of the annual Halifax Rural Area Quality of Life survey*.

Rutland residents tend to be fit and well, with more than 96% in good or fairly good health, the report said. Residents feel safe within their homes and communities, a fact borne out by the low crime rate enjoyed by the county, which in fact is one of the lowest in the country.



Residents are also among the most happy, satisfied and content in Britain, according to the ONS survey on national well-being.

The region enjoys a relatively good climate, with less rainfall per year and more weekly hours of sunshine than the national average.

If you are looking for a rural lifestyle with great access to national road and rail links, then look no further than Buttercross Park. Located in the pretty village of Oakham, right in the heart of Rutland, this Larkfleet Homes development offers a range of traditionally styled eco-friendly and energy efficient 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 bedroom properties which will suit home buyers looking for a quality new home within these appealing, rural surroundings.

**The Halifax Rural Area Quality of Life survey is carried out annually with factors taken into account including residents' health and life expectancy, crime rates, weather, employment, school results, broadband access and personal wellbeing into account.*

Larkfleet set for Construction News Award?

Larkfleet Group has been shortlisted for the Sustainable Company of the Year category in the 2015 Construction News Awards.

This award goes to companies for which sustainability is a top management priority and forms a central part of the corporate agenda and company culture. Entrants are judged on evidence of the outcomes of sustainability initiatives, innovation in sustainability, evidence of a company culture with sustainability deeply embedded throughout the workforce, and action to reduce the company carbon footprint.



Green Belt re-think needed say planners

Protecting the Green Belt is still a priority for the majority of British voters according a recent YouGov survey. However, according to a new report from planning firm Broadway Malyan, the next government will need to address the housing crisis by approaching house building and the Green Belt in a new way.

The YouGov survey found that two-thirds (67 per cent) of UK adults favour the protection of Green Belt land while the same percentage also support new house building in the UK.

The majority (83 per cent nationally and 85 per cent in the Eastern region) think that new homes should be constructed on brownfield sites. However Broadway Malyan has identified problems with brownfield sites. They are often contaminated, requiring expensive clean-up operations, and the easier locations have already been built out.

Opinion is divided over building on greenfield land – land that has not been previously built on but is outside the Green Belt. Almost half (48 per cent) oppose building on this type of land, while just over one-quarter (27 per cent) support the idea.

The Broadway Malyan report concluded that the new government will need to plan for development in a far more strategic manner.

One of the authors of the report, Jeff Nottage, director of master planning at Broadway Malyan, said: "Politicians and policy makers need to think more widely and plan more effectively – the relationship between London as a global megacity and other cities and towns across the South East necessitates a greater city-region vision, cooperation and a new strategy for the Green Belt.

"As part of the above, [the new government should] implement a thorough review of Green Belt, what it is and what it does. We need an updated definition and function for Green Belt so that we can use land more purposefully and appropriately.

"This is vital to ensure the best value and use of precious land resources for society as a whole – whether that is the delivery of new homes, the protection of the environment and natural landscape, the provision of community and amenity space or through agriculture."

