



New web tool will help thousands of self builders find building plots

19 June 2013

Finding a suitable building plot is the biggest hurdle most would-be self builders face. That's why the National Self Build Association (NaSBA) has launched a new web tool that will help put self builders in touch with land owners.

A million self builders are searching for building plots

At any one time more than one million UK families are searching for a building plot. But most of them find it very difficult to locate one, and it is especially challenging for groups of self builders to come together to buy larger sites that they can split up into individual plots.

The new 'Need-a-Plot' tool is available for free on The Self Build Portal – the independent website set up by NaSBA to guide people through the complex process of building a home for themselves. Using 'Need-a-Plot' self builders can identify the areas in which they wish to find land, set out their priorities and their available budget. They do this by placing a 'noticeboard' on a map of the UK that lists their basic requirements.

Self builders can place a noticeboard for solo plots, or they can use the facility to encourage people to team up to buy larger sites that can then be split into individual plots. Land owners who have plots for sale can freely approach the self builders (via email, which is routed through The Self Build Portal), and if everyone is happy, they can link up with each other.

Estate agents should find the 'Need-a-Plot' tool useful for marketing their client's land portfolios.

And local authorities and planning consultants will also find it invaluable as it will, in time, give a clear indication of the level of self build demand there is in each council area. This is vital as the National Planning Policy Framework now requires all councils to measure the level of demand for self build land in their area, and to then make appropriate provision for it. So, the more demand, the more land that council planners will have to set aside for self builders in the future.

Welcoming the new facility on The Self Build Portal, Housing Minister Mark Prisk MP said: "One of the main barriers self-builders have faced in the past has been to find a suitable plot on which to build their dream home. We've been determined to tackle this, ensuring through our planning reforms that councils must consider the needs of those looking to self-build when drawing up their local plans for development. So I'm delighted that The Self-Build Portal will now include this new feature, so aspiring self-builders can put their call out to landowners and agents and find the site that's right for them."

NaSBA Chair Ted Stevens said: "This new web tool has only been operational for a few weeks, but already scores of self builders have posted their Need-a-Plot noticeboards. With more than 100,000 would-be self builders visiting The Self Build Portal in its first year, I'm confident that there will be thousands of noticeboards lodged on the site over the next few months. And as soon as estate agents and land owners cotton on to it, we're confident it will quickly become established as the simplest way of putting people who own land in touch with self builders who want to buy it."

ENDS

For further information contact:

- Ted Stevens, Chair, on 07860 336087 or chair@nasba.org.uk
- Tom Lowe, Media Manager, on 07557 129229 or editor@selfbuildportal.org.uk

Notes:

1. The 'Need-a-Plot' tool can be accessed via www.selfbuildportal.org.uk/needaplot