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COMMUNITY NEWS

GROUND BREAKING NEW BUILD IN HEMEL HEMPSTEAD

Will new tower block be world's greenest?

By HANNAH RICHARDSON
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The world's most sustainable residential tower will save its residents up to £11,000 a year in living expenses, according to developers Lumiere.

And the revolutionary building is being built in the heart of Hemel Hempstead.

The Beacon, a 17-storey tower on Whiteleaf Road, has been designed to generate enough heat and power from on-site renewable energy to power most of the building's requirements, resulting in an

expected 70 to 80 per cent reduction in heating costs compared to normal properties.

Planning permission has been granted for the new build in Hemel's regeneration district, and Lumiere Developments is now demolishing the existing commercial building on the site.

Building is set to begin at the start of next year, and the Beacon is expected to be completed in the summer of 2018.

Green technology, including the highest-density solar farm in the world, triple and quadruple glazing, ground source and air source heat pumps, mechanical ventilation

and heat recovery (MHVR) systems and rainwater harvesting will save enough energy to allow Lumiere Developments to offer 'Free Energy For Life' to all Beacon residents.

Home owners will also benefit from an in-house electric car and electric bike share scheme, while residents with cars will have access to the UK's largest automated underground car parking system.

An internal arboretum will be a major feature of the ground floor. Other facilities will include a cafe and bar area, gymnasium and communal roof garden.



Artist's Impression of The Beacon

CELEBRATE SUCCESS AWARDS

Teen excluded from school overcomes his problems to gain a Royal award

A Hemel Hempstead teenager has won a Royal award.

Jake Curston, aged 17, won the Total Car Parks Educational Achiever award at The Prince's Trust and TK Maxx & HomeSense Celebrate Success Awards on Monday.

The awards recognise the achievements of disadvantaged young people who have succeeded against the odds, improved their chances in life and had a positive impact on their local community.

With a diagnosis of Tourette's syndrome and attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, Jake struggled to

cope with behaviour and anger difficulties at school.

After spending most of Year 9 in isolation, Jake was excluded from school and placed at Dacorum Educational Support Centre.

It was there that Jake joined The Prince's Trust programme, which helps young people who struggle at school, giving them confidence and motivation.

At first, he clashed with other young people and became frustrated when he didn't know how to handle situations. But with guidance, Jake learned how to listen and

work with others and enjoyed being given responsibility.

He became involved with Riding for the Disabled, where he volunteers every Saturday, and began raising money for charity.

Jake is now attending college to take a sports coach diploma and continues to hold down a part-time job.

He said: "I'm absolutely gobsmacked. I didn't know what to say when I won."

"This award has given me the confidence to go on and achieve more in the future. I am thrilled to be recognised in this way."



Jake receives his award from Easy Estiaman, of Total Car Parks

THE POMMEL HORSE

Pub launches kids' Christmas contest

A Hemel Hempstead pub is giving children the chance to take over Christmas for a day - as well as getting a free festive meal.

The Pommel Horse Hungry Horse pub, in Jamn Square, is looking for one local child to take charge of this year's festivities, which will include decorating the Christmas tree, wrapping presents and putting up the seasonal decorations.

As well as taking the starring role in their very own

Christmas video, the lucky winner will also bag an extra £100 just in time for Christmas - a £150 Toys R Us voucher.

The pub is also offering a free Christmas meal from the new festive menu for every child who enters the competition.

Hungry Horse general manager Louise Hills said: "Christmas time is all about giving, so this year we wanted to give five lucky children the opportunity to take charge of

the season's celebrations at our pubs, as well as offering free meals from our festive menu.

"From decorating the Christmas tree to icing cakes, we've got loads of fun and festive activities in store, so we can't wait to see what Hemel Hempstead's most creative kids come up with."

The Christmas competition is open to children aged four to 10. To enter your child into the competition for the chance to win the £150 prize visit www.

hungryhorse.co.uk/kidsmas and explain in 100 words why you think they deserve to take the starring role at Hungry Horse this Christmas.

The winning child will join four other winners from across the UK to take part in the Kidsmas video filming on Saturday, November 26, at the Beekeeper Pub in Nottlingham.

Winners will need to be accompanied by a parent or guardian and travel expenses will be provided.

