

# Strong as oak as two join forces

A FIFE timber frame manufacturer and a specialist oak firm have teamed up to target the bespoke housing market.

The tie-up between Lomond Timber Frame and Carpenter Oak & Woodland will allow the two businesses to offer a wider range of options by sharing expertise and combining services.

Carpenter specialises in high quality green oak portal frames and beams and Stuart Rennie, Lomond's managing director, explained: "We often receive enquiries for timber frame kits with an element of oak post and beam features included while Carpenter Oak & Woodland get lots of enquiries where the timber frame forms part of the building envelope."

Andy Parker, commercial director at Carpenter, added: "In making building components work together the shrinkage and movement of green oak presents new and different challenges. There is now no need for specifiers to concern themselves with the interface between the structural oak and the envelope.

"This alliance allows us to offer a fabulous green oak frame complete with building envelope with all the interfaces expertly resolved by our two technical teams. There is symmetry between our respective companies and I believe, through this joint of-

fering, our businesses can really grow and complement one another and our clients."

The Lomond Group is a family-owned business and has a land bank with the ability to generate an estimated turnover of £450m over the next 10 years. Carpenter has a Scottish office at Kirriemuir in Angus.

Lomond is also involved in a project where a family from Fife is set to put one of Scotland's greenest social housing experiments to the test as it moves into its new home in Lochgelly.

The house at Lomond's New Farm Vale development is the focus of a three-month pilot project on a unique type of insulation designed to save energy, cut carbon emissions, improve air quality and provide long-term cost savings for owners.

The home was built by Lomond as part of the Fife Housing Association Alliance programme and was officially handed over to signal the start of the trial. The insulation is the result of a partnership between Energyflo Construction Technologies, which produces the panels, and Lomond Timber Frame which designed the frames.

Three houses will be monitored for three months using electronic devices to measure energy savings in relation to the prevailing weather conditions.



Rennie: "Potential! is huge."

Two of the houses have been fitted with 'Dynamic Breathing Building' technology with the third fitted with conventional insulation.

Stuart Rennie, managing director of Lomond Timber Frame, said: "We are confident that the trial will demonstrate that the two houses fitted with the 'Dynamic Breathing Building' technology show greatly reduced rates of heat loss in comparison with the third conventionally insulated home.

"Insulation panels designed by Energyflo Construction Technologies have been inserted into our open-panel frames for the first time, in what I hope will be a successful pilot scheme and become a continuing partnership.

"The potential for our Dynamic Breathing Building system is huge and in just three months we will have a far greater understanding of its full potential."