



GREEN HOME TO RUN ON WIND POWER

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BY ROBIN JOHNSON
RJOHNSON@DERBYTELEGRAPH.CO.UK

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What may become the most energy-efficient, cost-effective green design home in the UK is to be built near Ashbourne.

Planning permission has been granted for the Ashton Close project at Snelston and the two-year project to build it is set to get under way.

The building, part-house, part-machine, is the brainchild of engineer and inventor Robin Hamilton.

Mr Hamilton, 59, who lives in Snelston, is building the revolutionary new home on his own land in a former quarry. Once it is built, he and his wife, Roseanne, will live in it.

He estimates it will cost between £500,000 and £750,000, but once completed the house will have no running costs.

Its rotating design means it will be self-sufficient in terms of generating and storing its own energy. It will be partly made from reclaimed tyres and other sustainable materials.

The property will boast flexible open-plan accommodation across three storeys.

The 700-tonne dwelling will be mounted on rollers on a railway track, and will revolve to capture solar and wind energy, with the latter being processed by a new low-speed design of wind turbine.

Mr Hamilton, who is a self-employed electronics engineer, said: "I'm really looking



forward to starting work on this dream home. I've been developing this highly topical concept for many years and am delighted that planning permission has been granted.

"This property will certainly boast some rather distinctive features. It will store energy, generate its own power and export any surplus to the National Grid. It has been designed for minimum maintenance.

"I believe this house is the first of its kind and is taking a giant step towards meeting the challenges that we all face, such as dwindling resources and climate change.

"It will demonstrate new concepts and techniques for design and construction, which I hope can successfully be incorporated into other buildings in both the housing and commercial sectors."

For the last 17 years Mr Hamilton has been producing environmental engineering technologies and products.

He has gained many international patents for new inventions and techniques, and has worked with major initiatives including recycling techniques, use of recycled material, power generation and energy conservation.

Rural property surveyors Fisher German helped Mr Hamilton with planning consent. Kay Davies, of the firm, said: "This dramatic and contemporary concept is unique and is completely sympathetic to its natural surroundings.

"We believe this to be the first application under Planning Policy Statement 7 not to be called in to inquiry by the Secretary of State."

Planning Policy Statement 7 - Sustainable Development in Rural Areas - sets out Government planning policies for rural areas, which authorities need to note when preparing development documents and taking planning decisions.