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How time flies!

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What seemed a long Christmas and New Year break is well behind us and the January market has started with a real flurry of activity. Our first few sales are already in the book and new instructions are coming in. Let's hope this continues, it bodes well for a busy year.

In Ashtead, the Neighbourhood Development Plan has been released for public consultation. A great deal of time and effort has been made by the Forum members to try and create a vision for the future of Ashtead and residents are advised to read and comment www.ashteadcommunityvision.org.uk (<http://www.ashteadcommunityvision.org.uk>)

The governments new stamp duty penalties are due to come into force on 1st April forcing new buy to let investors to pay an extra 3% stamp duty on purchases after this time. After all the attacks on private pension pots over the years this seems a most 'un-Conservative' policy and will undoubtedly mean that price pressure is further increased on suitable buy to let properties making them even more unaffordable for first time buyers.