



ARTICLE No: 2B

PLANNING COMMITTEE

MEMBERS UPDATE 2017/18

ISSUE: 5

Article of: **Director of Development and Regeneration**

Relevant Portfolio Holder **Councillor J Hodson**

Contact for further information: Ian Bond (Extn. 5167)
(E-mail: ian.bond@westlancs.gov.uk)

SUBJECT: WEST LANCASHIRE DESIGN AWARDS 2017

Wards affected: Borough wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE ARTICLE

- 1.1 To update Members on the 2017 West Lancashire Design Awards and inform them of the winners of this year's design awards.

2.0 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The West Lancashire Design Awards is an important award scheme run by the Council every two years to acknowledge and promote the importance of good design within the Borough. The design awards are a long standing initiative which has been running since 1989.
- 2.2 Nationally, in recent years, there has been increasing support from Central Government for Local Authorities to raise the quality of design across a whole range of its services and especially in its delivery of its Planning service. The West Lancashire Design Awards is a key aspect of the Council's approach to encourage better quality development. The Awards emphasise the Council's commitment to working in partnership with other agencies and developers/owners in trying to improve the built environment and quality of life for people of West Lancashire.
- 2.3 The Awards are given to developments in five categories:
- New residential developments including extensions to existing properties
 - The refurbishment, adaptation and conversion of existing buildings
 - Commercial and/or community based developments
 - Landscape schemes

- Schemes which have used sustainable or 'Green' approaches to reduce their carbon emissions.
- 2.4 The nomination process began earlier in the year (February through to June) providing an opportunity to owners, residents, Parish Councils, and architects to put forward schemes. All the nominated schemes have been assessed by the Heritage and Environment Manager and a short-list drawn up and agreed by the Director of Development and Regeneration.
- 2.5 The short-listed buildings/sites were visited by the judge's panel on the 12th September. The judging panel was made up of Council Officers, the Planning Portfolio Holder, two members of Planning Committee and two representatives of the Conservation Area Advisory Panel.

3.0 CURRENT POSITION - AWARD WINNERS

- 3.1 All the judges commented positively on the high standard of the shortlisted schemes in this year's design awards and as well as announcing the five category winners the panel gave out a further seven commendations to worthy schemes.
- 3.2 The **residential category** was won by an extension to Needless Inn Barn, off Lady Alice's Drive, Lathom. The single storey extension, designed by Matt Wood Architects is a contemporary addition to a Grade 2 listed barn which was converted into a single dwelling in 2001. The judges liked the simplicity and sensitivity of the design and the high quality of the finished work. Because of the high standard this year, four other residential schemes were given **commendations** - these are the Firbeck Housing Renewal at Skelmersdale and the construction of new houses at 29a Junction Lane, Burscough, 1 Thornhill, Granville Park and 46 Granville Park West, Aughton.
- 3.3 The judges felt the re-development and extension of Moor Hall into a beautiful new restaurant, including accommodation, at Prescott Road, Aughton was a worthy winner of the **renovation/conversion and commercial categories**. The judges felt that the work, designed by Falconer Chester Hall Architects showed a superb attention to detail and was of a very high quality. The new dining space provides a balanced and sensitive contemporary addition to the Hall and overall the scheme has created a new sustainable use for the building.
- 3.4 In the commercial category the judges gave a **commendation** to the re-development of Hurlston Hall Golf Club which provides a new multi-functional space for the golf club including bar, restaurant and first floor function room with panoramic view across the golf course. In the conversion category the judges gave a **commendation** for the conversion of the unused North range at Scarisbrick Hall School, Scarisbrick into new teaching space including a first floor Library and 6th Form Common Room.
- 3.5 The **sustainability category** award was given to the development of the Tech Hub at Edge Hill University, Ormskirk. The judges felt the bespoke and innovative design, by ABW Architects Ltd, provides a building which is a sustainable and energy efficient solution for the constrained site.

- 3.6 The **landscaping category** award was given to the development of a beautifully crafted garden and landscape relating to a new bungalow at 308a Prescott Road, The judges were impressed with the garden and the outdoor space including the paved areas and garden planting are of a high quality and compliment the design of the property and its single aspect design. A **commendation** was also given to the landscape gardens including the development of a kitchen garden at Moor Hall Restaurant which forms an integral part of the new use of the Hall.
- 3.7 More details on the design awards and this year's winning schemes can be found on our Web site. An Awards ceremony for this year's winners will take place later in the year at the Council's Chapel Gallery, St Helens Road, Ormskirk.

4.0 SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS/COMMUNITY STRATEGY

- 4.1 There are no significant sustainability impacts associated with this report and, in particular, no significant impact on crime and disorder. The need to continue with efforts to protect and improve the quality of the environment within the Borough including its streetscene, natural and built heritage of our towns, villages and countryside has been identified as a key issue in the Sustainable Community Strategy.

5.0 FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 There are no specific financial and resource implications arising from this report.

6.0 RISK ASSESSMENT

- 6.1 There are no particular risks arising from this report.

7.0 CONCLUSIONS

- 7.1 The West Lancashire Design Awards remain an important part of the Council's commitment to improving the quality of development within the Borough. The awards are a valuable way of promoting 'good' design and showing to members of the public, property owners, developers and architects what can be achieved.

Background Documents

There are no background documents (as defined in Section 100D(5) of the Local Government Act 1972) to this Report.

Equality Impact Assessment

There is no evidence from an initial assessment of an adverse impact on equality in relation to the equality target groups.

Appendices

None.