



Winner



Hamilton Road, Felixstowe – Shared Space Scheme
Suffolk County Council

Judging Criteria >

This new award recognises outstanding street designs. Completed schemes, or those at the detailed design or construction stage, are eligible.

- Demonstration of fulfilling a clearly articulated vision
- Encourage environmentally sustainable travel choices
- Well executed planning and implementation (Consultation and Collaboration)
- Achieve a good balance between Movement and Place functions
- Excellence in accessibility and inclusiveness
- Quality, Functionality and Maintainability of Design
- Good Connectivity to the surrounding community
- Evidence that scheme objectives are being achieved

In 2007 Suffolk County Council selected the shopping centre of Felixstowe for an improvement project, following a number of pedestrian injury accidents. During the initial phase of the project it became apparent that a 'Shared Space' concept could potentially deliver the injury accident savings while creating a more attractive shopping area for people to use and spend time socially.

A project board was set up jointly with the other local authorities and other key stakeholders such as the Police and the local chamber of commerce. The board had an input in the key decisions throughout the design, consultation and delivery stages.

Disability groups were closely involved in the project from inception. Open forum discussions with a wide range of disability groups, demonstrations of the materials proposed and site visits throughout the process all contributed to the evolution of the scheme design.

The final scheme design aimed for the best balance between maintaining access to the shops and improving the safety of vulnerable road users. The design involved a level paved surface with lighter and darker variations of block paving to define the street space, combined with clearly differentiated stopping places. A number of seating areas were provided along the road, combined with improved cycle parking, litter bins and planting. The designers worked closely with all stakeholders to ensure that each section of the street had a sense of 'place' and related to the adjacent buildings.

The scheme was designed and constructed using Suffolk County Council's in-house designers, planners and construction staff. The total cost of the project was very low for a scheme of this nature; the project budget of £850K covered an area of 3500m².

The scheme was started on site in February 2010, was completed on time and opened in December 2010. The scheme is part of a package of streetscape improvements in the town, improving the connectivity between the shopping area and the sea front. The early indications are that the scheme has achieved the aims of allowing low-speed traffic movement to form part of an animated, attractive and safe pedestrian environment.

The judges thought this was an excellent scheme in a constrained environment. The retention of the one way system was important in retaining the streets movement function with the innovative use of courtesy crossings as a gateway treatment. The scheme also achieved the placemaking and safety objectives that were set out in the vision. Non-disabled car parking was removed which has encouraged modal shift to sustainable modes. There was extensive consultation with disabled groups resulting in a successful outcome.

Highly Commended



Southwark Council – Reclaiming the Streets, Salisbury Row: the people’s project
Southwark Council in partnership with Mouchel

The Salisbury Row project delivers the objectives that underscore the Mayor of London’s Transport Strategy and Southwark Council’s transport policies for accessible and sustainable travel patterns with streets as social spaces. Salisbury Row is a neighbourhood located between the Bricklayers Arms roundabout and Elephant & Castle in Southwark, London.

Transport for London (TfL) contributed £1.75M to the scheme implementation through the LIP funding and Southwark Council contributed £160,000 overall. Southwark Council worked in partnership with consultants Mouchel to progress the design solutions and facilitate consultation, and with contractors FM Conway, for the delivery.

An attitude survey in 2007 highlighted the need for a reduction in vehicle speed (70%), a desire for greener streets (63%) and streets with pedestrian and cyclist priority (62%). Dependence on the car for local journeys was increasing, as were volumes of traffic.

Engagement, partnership and ownership were the cornerstones of this innovative project which returned the streets and spaces of Salisbury Row to the local people and wider community including parents, cyclists and commuters.

The ‘Reclaiming the Streets’ vision was developed with local people to reduce traffic dominance and promote local sustainable transport. Design solutions included a carefully planned one-way system, sensible traffic calming solutions, greener streets through planting and partial road closures that link three green spaces into one.

The park has now become the heart of the community and is used for exercise, play and forms a valuable cycle and walking route connecting to wider destinations. New shared spaces include ‘play street’ and a community square for local residents. Widened footways and rationalised parking also now meet local demand.

This investment into the environment and local community has produced a dramatic shift in behaviour. In 2010, there was a 71% overall reduction in traffic and a 58% reduction in vehicles travelling over 20mph. The improvements have increased peak morning pedestrian numbers by 83% across all streets.

This local traffic calming/management scheme, applied various techniques in an intelligent way to achieve a very satisfactory outcome. The judges felt that there was exemplary involvement of the public in the design process. There is strong evidence of successful outcomes that were identified during the public consultation including reducing school run traffic, and the scheme had excellent monitoring. The scheme has unlocked the potential as a place to live using good quality materials while still being cost effective.

Commended



Letchworth Garden City Streetscene Improvements
Ove Arup & Partners Ltd, LDA Design, Letchworth Garden City Heritage Foundation, Skanska – Infrastructure Services, The Fountain Workshop, Sutton Vane Associates

Arup were part of a design team, led by landscape architect LDA Design, delivering a £8M high quality streetscape regeneration project. The project consisted of two major town centre retail streets in Letchworth, on behalf of Letchworth Garden City Heritage Foundation (LGCHF).

The design was heavily influenced by the heritage of the Garden City, and the philosophy of Ebenezer Howard who took a new approach to town planning, in an attempt to create a community blending the advantages of town and country. The project forms part of an overall town centre redevelopment strategy involving the construction of two new shopping centres linked by the ‘Streetscene’ improvements. The design of the streets encourages multiple uses from shared surface thoroughfares through to public open spaces that can be used for public events. The design also incorporates facilities for use as a street market. The design team provided detailed designs for new high quality pavements, soft landscaping, utility diversions, new electrical power supplies for the feature streetlighting and the new water features which act as a focal point for public events held in the public space created by the redesign.

LGCHF have been very supportive of the scheme and believe the vision and objectives set at the beginning of the project have been met. The project team worked closely with key stakeholders throughout. The successful implementation of these proposals will now be a substantial boost to retailers and act as a catalyst for economic redevelopment.

Skanska’s handling of public relation matters has been a strong part of the project. A site office in Leys Avenue and weekly co-ordination meetings were set up to engage with the public, deal with any issues arising and identify forthcoming changes to works. This approach resulted in the project being awarded the Considerate Constructors Scheme ‘Performance Beyond Compliance’ accolade. This civil engineering project is regarded as a great example of urban regeneration and demonstrates the value that both high quality design and construction can bring to creating a new ‘sense of place’.

This scheme is part of the town centre revitalisation, designed to link two large shopping centres. This was an excellent scheme in terms of quality design and implementation, and very strong in terms of placemaking, with very good use of lighting. The judges felt that the scheme had achieved a good balance between place and movement.