

Unveiling of Plaques for building excellence

Social housing in Sele Farm was variously described as “visionary” and “transformational” at the unveiling of plaques to mark Hertford Civic Society’s occasional awards for the town’s best new buildings.

The award to Network Homes signalled more than just building excellence and was noted by the awards panel – under the chairmanship of Lee Prosser, curator of Historic Buildings at Historic Royal Palaces – as a significant step forward in the creation of good social housing. The £34m redevelopment on The Ridgeway is part of a longer-term partnership between Network Homes and East Herts District Council around the regeneration of Sele Farm.

Unveiling the plaque for the 2020 Award, Councillor Peter Boylan, Executive Member for Neighbourhoods at EHDC, said, “I fully concur with Hertford Civic Society’s assessment of the quality of the design; what a transformation!” The housing strategy underway “will lay out the expectations around the development and maintenance of various social housing offers to meet the broader needs of our residents.”

Other officials at the unveiling – which coincided with the official opening of the Sele Farm Community Hub, offering advice and space for consultation and social gatherings – spoke of the nudge factor for better architecture created by the award scheme.

Ian Nash Hertford Civic Society Committee