

A major regeneration scheme in Bedford has been heralded as a national example at an awards ceremony

Castle Quay in Castle Lane has seen the creation of 108 new apartments, 8 shops, 3 restaurant units, an outdoor archaeological park and a vault where a medieval lime kiln is displayed.

The scheme was developed by Complex Development Projects' (CDP) in partnership with Bedford Borough Council, and it won the Homes and Communities Academy award for Places For All at a ceremony in London hosted by Moira Stewart.

The working relationship between Bedford's elected mayor and CDP was seen as a major driving force in the development's success.

Deborah Lamb, chair of the judging panel, said: *"The shared vision of the developer and the directly elected mayor Frank Branston was inspiring and clearly critical to the success of the project."*

The awards celebrate projects that combine 'innovation and dedication' to improve communities. Schemes in London, Manchester, Liverpool and the Isle of Wight were also winners.

The judging panel added: "The development has revitalised the town's cultural facilities.

"The process of developing the scheme brought people together and strengthened the local community. It created community cohesion, a sense of place and pride in the local community."

David Freer, director of CDP, said Castle Quay was of major significance to the town.

He said: *"From day one, we realised that this was no ordinary development it has huge importance both culturally and for the community."*

"In partnership with the council, we have managed to marry the old and the new and have given this historic site a development for the future."

"The positive impact it has already had on Bedford is extremely satisfying for all those involved and to have that recognised by this award is great for the town."

Castle Quay was constructed by local Bedford contractors SDC Construction, David Freer said "SDC did a fantastic job and they should be proud of what they helped achieve at Castle Lane

The last remaining residential units are available through Compass New Homes. CDP are in negotiation with a number of restaurant operators but still want to hear from other experienced local people who have ideas and want to open a riverside restaurant at Castle Quay.

