

Regional Awards for Planning Achievement Sponsored by WYG

The awards would not be possible without the generous support of WYG Planning Consultants and their Director, Keith Nutter. Keith appreciated at the outset the number of high quality schemes and initiatives taking place across the Region that needed to be promoted by way of an award scheme and has funded it for a number of years.

The RTPI NW & WYG Planning Achievement Award scheme is one of the most successful award schemes of any of the regions and nations, in terms of numbers of entries and the high quality of the submitted schemes and it is something that all the members of the Regional Activities Committee are very proud of.

This year's judging panel reflects a broad cross section of the profession including private and public sectors, academic, and retired. We shortlisted thirteen entrants in all, with Oldham Council winning the overall Award.

Oldham St Marys was a significant site, which has successfully completed (93 dwellings) on the ground and ticks many boxes covering current principles for positive and effective planning. It should provide a positive focus for Oldham and the less visible sustainability features should perhaps be stressed, notably the housing features. The location is a sustainable one close to the town centre and public transport, which should be a boost to the wider social and economic regeneration of the town. It was hoped that winning an award from the RTPI would add some positive publicity. It is to be hoped that this scheme will achieve what the two previous renewal schemes clearly failed to do, once the original Victorian terraced housing had been demolished. St Marys is a positive beacon in a town where the impact of austerity will have been keenly felt.

A special award this year has gone to Booths for their consistent and long term positive approach to the planning process (going the extra mile quite willingly).

Winner of the RTPI NW / IHBC Conservation Award 2013 (an award for improving environmental quality through conservation or enhancement of the historic built environment) was the Chester City Walls, Portico Project. This significant project has been successfully completed on the ground and represents excellent practical urban conservation.

Awards will be awarded at this year's AGM, and we would encourage you to consider submitting entries for the regional awards next year. Thanks go to WYG for their sponsorship, and to all effort that went into the submissions. It is satisfying to see examples of good planning in the North West and the awards are a real opportunity to share and be recognised. Contrary to what many are saying, the planning profession can contribute to development and positive change and we should be proud of our achievements.

The Royal Town Planning Institute North West & WYG Planning Achievement Awards for 2013 are presented to:

Overall Winner & Winner of the Sustainable Communities & Regeneration Category
“St Marys, Oldham”

Submitted by: Oldham MBC, Symphony Housing Group and Nicol Thomas

Commendation for Sustainable Communities & Regeneration
“Greengate Square”

Submitted by: Salford City Council

North West & Institute of Historic Building Conservation North West Building Conservation Award 2013 Overall Winner

“Chester City Walls, Portico Project”

Submitted by: Submitted by: Donald Insall Associates and Cheshire West and Chester Council

Commendation for Contribution To Positive Community Engagement
“Ketso”

Submitted by: Dr. Joanne Tippett

Award for a Catalyst Rural Community and Neighbourhood Plan in the North West, Under The Localism Act 2011

“Upper Eden Neighbourhood Plan”

Submitted by: Development Planning Solutions Limited

Awards for Strategic Planning

“Greater Manchester Waste & Minerals Plans”

Submitted by: Association of Greater Manchester Authorities and Urban Vision

Special Award

“Booths - for their consistent and long term positive approach to the planning process”

To Booths, Damson Consultancy Ltd and Steve Abbott Associates LLP

The 2013 RTPI NW Awards Panel comprised:

- Jane Aspinall
- John Knight
- David Alexander
- Peter Kuit
- Murray Graham
- Keith Nutter
- Greg Dickson
- Bob Phillips
- Paul Hartley (representing the IHBC)

