Judges Citations 2014 RTPI South East Awards

The Treehouses at Chewton Glen

Terence O’Rourke

Category: Outstanding Planning to Deliver Growth and Employment

The Treehouses at Chewton Glen is a high quality development which has incorporated innovative design to support an existing business and provide a significant boost to the local economy. Building upon its status as a luxury country house hotel and spa, located close to the edge of the New Forest National Park, the Hotel has identified and responded effectively to changing customer demands by providing 12 highly unique and luxury treehouse suites. The completed development has resulted in an additional £1.9m turnover to the Hotel’s current £12m annual turnover in the first year following the completion of the Treehouses, and accordingly provided a significant boost to the local tourism industry which earns the New Forest in excess of £100m each year and contributes almost 30% of all new job opportunities.

The success of the project has been reliant on overcoming a number of environmental and planning constraints, particularly in respect of the site’s designation as a Site of Importance for Nature Conservation within the Green Belt, and its’ sensitive wooded location close to the New Forest National Park. Accordingly, the project team has been committed to regular engagement with the local planning authority (particularly the Council tree officer) – as well as with professional consultants, council ward members and the local town council – from the outset of the initial design process, in order to deliver a high quality development which addressed and sensitively responded to the setting of the site and the unique requirements of the client.

Overall the submission is a good example of successfully delivering high quality and innovative design to support the local economy, and therefore the Panel commends the project for outstanding planning to deliver growth and employment.