

Award winning

North Staffordshire's newest seat of learning has been named the region's best-designed building.

The City of Stoke-on-Trent Sixth Form College's new £26 million campus was named the winner of the second annual Architecture and Urban Design Award in October.

The Leek Road college was up against a wide range of schemes, including refurbishment projects, a football academy and a call centre. But the judging panel at Urban Vision North Staffordshire was unanimous in choosing its winner. Judges were impressed by how well the building had been received by students and staff.



Sixth Form College



Town planner Geoff Wright, the panel's chairman, said: "When we visited the college we were impressed with how the users of the building were reacting to it."

Representatives from Birmingham-based architect Broadway Malyan, which was behind the project, were presented with an oil painting of the college.

The college includes features such as a four-storey glass atrium, study and performance "pods", and a bamboo lined corridor.

Head of Faculty Will Potts said: ***"The architects have delivered a real building for learning."***

Thornton Road access route

Options are being explored for a new access route, early in 2011, to link the two Staffordshire University campuses in the University Quarter.

As part of the environmental improvements to the public area within the quarter, Thornton Road has been identified as a possible access link for the College Road and Leek Road campuses.

The design proposals want to use the street as a pedestrian friendly access route, with decorative surfacing and artworks.

As part of the proposals, ideas for decorative bands of paving running between the two campuses and a series of circular floor plaques have been put forward which would act as points of interest along the route. The plaques can be updated over time and it is proposed all artwork will be created by students from the University.

Work underway on Science and Technology Centre



Work to construct a state-of-the-art Science and Technology Centre at Staffordshire University is forging ahead.

In September, the University was given the green light to a £30 million project which will see the development of a new centre for all of the science teaching and research.

Miller Construction has already begun work on the Leek Road site, which is supported through an £8 million grant from the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE), and there are vision panels in the hoardings so why not go and have a look for yourself.

Due for completion in Autumn 2012, the Centre will feature a host of specialist science and technology laboratories, a cognitive and developmental psychology suite, interview rooms, two lecture theatres which can transform into a single 250 seat facility, a dedicated IT suite, learning resource centre, flexible learning spaces, café, and public exhibition space.

Staffordshire University Deputy Vice-Chancellor Paul Richards said: "The Science and Technology Centre is another giant step in the regeneration of North Staffordshire and we are confident it will make a significant impact on creating a science-literate community and a qualified workforce to help grow our science-based industries."

Long term objectives to be achieved through the development of the Centre include:

- Expanding the science and technology educational offer through the development of 20 industry-relevant courses
- Working with employers to develop new products/services
- Assisting entrepreneurs in the creation of more than 70 new business enterprises
- Ensuring greater levels of local community participation and public engagement.



Creative Village

Are you a creative entrepreneur looking for space to become your own boss, build your business and turn ideas into reality? If the answer is yes then the Creative Village is right for you!

The Creative Village, which is based at Staffordshire University on College Road, is a community of entrepreneurs, self-employed designer makers and craftspeople who develop

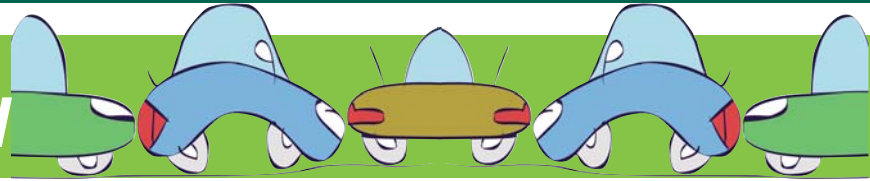
products in a creative environment of flexible workspaces.

If you are looking for somewhere to work with like minded people we can help.

To find out more contact Sue Tabbenor, email s.tabbenor@staffs.ac.uk or Guy Gibson, email g.gibson@staffs.ac.uk

FIRST MONTH WORKSHOP COST FREE
ON PRODUCTION OF THIS FLYER

University Boulevard



In the previous Bulletin, information was provided about the University Boulevard project which aims to establish a direct, high quality and attractive route for people travelling between Stoke-on-Trent train station, the University Quarter and the City Centre.

We advised that Stoke-on-Trent City Council was working on the preliminary design of the project and asking for your thoughts on the proposals by completing a questionnaire.

The response to the questionnaire has been very low but from the feedback received we have established:

What are the main reasons for traffic congestion?

- Illegal parking
- Congestion outside station
- Too much traffic
- Parking outside retail units

How can we improve bus journey times from the station to the City Centre?

- Reroute buses
- More buses
- Remove parking

As a pedestrian, how do you feel when crossing Station Road and College Road?

- Provide pedestrian facilities at Leek Road junction
- Provide crossing on College Road

What are the main traffic problems on Station Road and College Road?

- Parking Issues

- Provide off-road parking
- Congestion outside railway station
- Lack of enforcement of parking

The responses have been looked at and the two issues that come up most frequently are car parking and congestion.

The Council's design team has taken on board these comments and completed the preliminary design of the boulevard. The proposals seek to focus on improvements to Winton Square by reducing traffic volumes, and improving car parking and pick-up/drop-off facilities.



update

Quality Streets was a community consultation project that allowed local residents to discuss their views on the University Quarter. Following residents' feedback, an action plan to address issues was established and improvements have been made, including:

- ◆ Groundwork Trust carried out consultation with residents in Hanley Park to get information for a development plan of the area
- ◆ AirSpace ran a weekend arts trail in Hanley Park
- ◆ During Respect week, a group of volunteers organised a litter pick in the University Quarter

- ◆ The Area Implementation Team held a walkabout with local street representatives, a council and police officer to identify complex issues for the area
- ◆ CCTV cameras and noticeboards have been installed in Hanley Park.

Over the next few months:

- ◆ Police funding will be used to support activities and community involvement in Hanley Park
- ◆ Funding from Regional Action West Midlands will pay for further community activity and for local residents to be trained as community researchers.

Want to get involved?



Get Talking in Hanley Park is a community consultation course that will SUPPORT you to help make the area a better place.

Starting in December, the free course will GIVE YOU the opportunity to learn the basic skills for community consultation and WILL be run at Staffordshire University.

For more details contact Penny Vincent on 01782 294540, or email creativecommunities@staffs.ac.uk



Kay swaps office for outdoors

Kay Steele has swapped her office for the wide open spaces of Hanley Park as one of Stoke-on-Trent's new park keepers.

The new role will see Kay working with residents from the community to ensure the park is well looked after and offers something for everyone to enjoy.

Since taking up her new role, Kay has met with and agreed a working partnership with Community Payback and is looking to set up a 'Friends of group' in the park.

Kay said: "My aim is to involve the community in developing the park so it provides the facilities they want in a safe and pleasant environment they can enjoy. If you are interested in joining the Friends of group, please contact me on 07824 496280".

NEWSFLASH

The 2010 Finale celebrating the centenary of the federation of the six towns of Stoke-on-Trent will take place on Saturday 4th December, from 6 to 8pm in Hanley Park.

Come along to this FREE event and enjoy the spectacular celebrations.

University Quarter gets a facelift

Work is soon to begin on improving the general external appearance of some of the properties within the University Quarter area.

RENEW North Staffordshire is investing £250,000 for Sanctuary Group to carry out external refurbishment works to a number of properties in Leek Road, Boughey Road and Thornton Road. These works include replacement boundary walls and painting.

Around 100 properties should benefit from these improvements which are fully funded by RENEW and at no cost to the home owners.

Contact:

This community bulletin is produced by Sanctuary Group's PR team. If you have any questions or would like to suggest any ideas for articles for future issues please contact:

Cath Jordan, Regeneration Manager, Sanctuary Group, Three Counties House, Festival Way, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire, ST1 5PX.

Tel: 01782 203458

Email: cath.jordan@sanctuary-housing.co.uk

Sanctuary Group is a trading name of Sanctuary Housing Association, an exempt charity

UniQ Forum update



The fourth meeting of the UniQ Forum (previously Community Forum) took place in October at the Lifestyle Building, Stoke-on-Trent College. The theme for the meeting focused on Hanley Park, past, present and forward.

Presentations were heard from Penny Vincent, Staffordshire University Creative Communities Unit, Marie Powell, Groundwork UK, and Rob Belcher, Stoke-on-Trent City Council, on research work and activities. Members of the forum discussed the key issues raised and provided suggestions for further work and activities.

The next forum will be on:

Wednesday 9th February, 2011, at 6.30pm at the Business Village, Staffordshire University, Leek Road.

The focus for the meeting will be the new Science and Technology Centre.

This is another very important element of the regeneration work that is going on in the area – not just for students, but for local businesses, practitioners, residents and all members of the community.

The forum is a great opportunity to hear about what is going on in the University Quarter.

Come along to the next meeting and find out all about the Science and Technology Centre and how you can benefit from it.

It's your chance to have your say!