

Adamstown SDZ Wins Planning Award in London

- **Only Non-UK Project to Receive Royal Town Planning Institute's 2009 Planning Award**
- **Development of new town continues in 2009**

9th February 2009: Adamstown - Ireland's first 21st century town, has been honoured at the Royal Town Planning Institute's (RTPI) Annual Awards ceremony in the London Hilton Hotel. The emerging new town, Ireland's first designated Strategic Development Zone (SDZ), won the RTPI's 2009 Award in the Sustainable Communities category. The award was sponsored by The Crown Estate. Adamstown was the only non-UK project honoured at the awards.

Adamstown's entry to the RTPI Awards was a joint submission between South Dublin County Council and Chartridge, the developers of Adamstown incorporating Castlethorn Construction, Maplewood Homes and Tierra Construction.

The RTPI's Sustainable Communities award recognises the creation of sustainable, mixed use, developments in rural or urban contexts which balance and integrate the social, economic, environmental and resource needs of the community.

The Judges Panel was chaired by Chris Shepley CBE, formerly chief planning inspector for England and Wales and RTPI president in 1989. In their citation, the Judges said regarding the success of Adamstown that "the first theme to emerge is that major projects can be delivered on time and quickly through the planning process. Never let it be said that the planning system cannot deliver big projects in a reasonable time and to a high standard".

The Judges praised the design and layout of Adamstown in delivering a "modern vernacular" incorporating the key features of a sustainable community. They went on to say "we were impressed by the quality and scale of development at Adamstown... as a model of development for elsewhere".

Representing South Dublin County Council in receiving the award, Councillor Eamonn Tuffy welcomed in particular Adamstown's success under the Sustainable Communities category noting that this endorsed Adamstown's wider appeal as a well planned community and excellent place to live as well as its standing as an exemplar development.

Representing Chartridge in receiving the award, Jude Byrne of Castlethorn Construction looked forward to building upon the current success of Adamstown and said: "The award is a testament to the partnership of the stakeholders involved in Adamstown and their willingness to nurture the growth of a sustainable community from day one."

Adamstown has previously been awarded the overall Planning Achievement Award at the Irish Planning Institute's National Planning Awards in 2005, it was designated the Irish Residential Development of the Year in 2005 and received the European Council of Spatial Planning Award in 2006. In 2008 Adamstown Central was one of a limited number of exhibits at Royal Academy Exhibition in London and it was also one of the projects included in the "Evolving Norms of Housing" Exhibition at the Royal Institute of British Architects.

Ireland's first 21st century town has attracted a lot of international interest for the way in which the community is being built and in particular how homes are being delivered in tandem with social and transport infrastructure. Visiting delegations from abroad have included members of the US Senate, the UK Deputy Prime Minister's Office, and more recently members of the Scottish Assembly.

2009 Developments

2009 in Adamstown will see the opening of the new 1,000 pupil secondary school / community college along with the completion of upgrade works to the Dublin-Kildare commuter rail line, resulting in much higher frequency of trains servicing the new Adamstown Rail Station. In addition, the first local neighbourhood centre featuring a convenience store, café and other retail amenities will open Summer 2009.