

Symes Avenue re-development wins regional award

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The multi-million pound re-development of Symes Avenue which opened in Hartcliffe last week has won a prestigious regional regeneration award.

The scheme, which saw the 1950s shopping mall replaced by a Morrisons superstore, shops and a new community building and library, scooped the Regeneration Award at the South West commercial property awards.

The award was presented to Bristol City Council Sustainable Projects Team in partnership with Hartcliffe and Withywood Community Partnership (HWCP), South West of England Regional Development Agency (SWRDA) and Morrisons PLC.

Councillor Helen Holland, Leader of Bristol City Council, said: "I'm delighted at the award which recognises the quality of the re-development project and the huge impact it has had and will continue to have in Hartcliffe and south Bristol.

"The re-development took a long time to become a reality and credit needs to be given to all those who have been instrumental in achieving it, so well done to the Council's Sustainable Projects Team led by John Boutwood; to Hartcliffe and Withywood Partnership, the South West RDA and Morrisons.

"I also want to make special mention of local residents who have put up with so much and shaped their future which, with more investment under way, is looking very exciting for south Bristol."

Stephen Hewitt, Chief Executive of HWCP said: "It is great that what has been achieved in Hartcliffe has gained wider recognition. Local residents have put in a lot of time and effort working in partnership to make sure that the new development is what the local community needs and wants. It is thanks to Morrison's, Bristol City Council and SWRDA that this has happened. The new Symes shows what good partnership working can achieve and we look forward to working in this way on future projects."

Peter Holloway, development manager at the South West RDA, said: "This development has the potential to completely change the face of Hartcliffe. As recognised by the award judges, this project goes to show what can be achieved through persistence, commitment and strong partnership working."

The community building, as well as accommodating a new library, will provide meeting areas for visiting community advice services, a crèche, meeting and function rooms for hire and space to train local people in office and IT skills.

Other benefits of the scheme include a new children's play area; better car parking; landscape improvements; public art and a petrol station. Investment from the project will also support new community transport provision the Community Action on Transport and Training (CATT) bus; new community-run youth projects in the area, as well as new training schemes for local residents.