

## Young people ask for “something to do” - and their project wins award

**A project to create activities and places for young people to meet in Alcester scooped the West Action for Market Towns award on 12 July.**

**Conway Fields Youth and Community Project** was unveiled as winner of the West Action for Market Towns Award at a ceremony in Calne, Wiltshire.

Conway Fields Youth and Community Project is a series of long and short term schemes designed to provide suitable premises for young people and for intergenerational activities in Alcester.

It was prompted by a presentation made by young people at a council meeting on their need for “something to do”. This had an impact on the town, district and county councils and successful applications were made for grants towards youth facilities.

A consultation took place looking at possible sites for activities and premises for young people and Conway Fields and the Pavilion was identified as the most suitable. The town council, supported by partners, voluntary groups and the community drew up plans for the regeneration of the site.

The first phase – a multi-use games arena – was completed in May 2010 and is already proving extremely popular. A natural play area was created in spring 2010 for older children and a community orchard planted in February 2011.

Further phases are underway and young people have asked for future projects to include a performance area, skatepark, BMX track, cinema club and community internet cafe. **Having seen the success of their input so far, they are now keen to continue to play a part in the development of their community.**

**Chris Wade, the chief executive of AMT said:**

*“The number and quality of entries this year has been tremendous and there is a lot of great work to celebrate – much of it by volunteers and community groups.*

*“In choosing the winners the judges looked for an extra level of community leadership, a great spark of innovation and ideas and financing models that readily transfer to other towns. The winning projects are an inspiration to other communities.”*

The project will go forward with four others from other regions of England and Wales to the **Action for Market Towns national award**. The winner will be announced on 13th October at a ceremony in Ludlow, Shropshire.

Pictures illustrating the project are available to the press and can be viewed here:

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/actionformarkettowns/sets/72157626319079353/with/5579102345/>