

# Issue number 3 January 2006 Newsletter

Building Control and Development Control Environmental Services Department



## Team of the Year

Last year was rounded off in fine style for Development Control and Building Control with both making the final's of the council's Team of the Year awards. DC in the Achievement category and the combined BC/DC teams in the Customer Satisfaction category. The awards ceremony will be held in early February.

DC has continued an impressive rise up the league table of high performers and is now best of all Metropolitan authorities for decisions taken in 8 weeks. Both the Development Control and the Building Control Teams have successfully gained Charter Mark accreditation from the external examiner.

## Built in Quality Awards

We held our first **Built in Quality** and **Urban Design** award ceremony on 3rd October. Sponsored by Modus Properties the event, held at the Wigan Investment Centre was a great success. His worship the Mayor presented awards.

Local builders DJ & E Birchall and T Parkes and Son both won awards for small domestic works. Loughlin Homes from Chorley won the housing award. We had two winners in the commercial section, Laing O'Rourke Construction for the new Atherton Police Station, and Eric Wright Construction for the Bag Lane Health Centre.

Urban Design awards were presented for new buildings, conservation and environmental quality.

The scheme is intended to recognise and improve the quality of design and construction throughout the borough. The winners of our BIQ awards will be entered into next years LABC national award scheme. Details of the winning schemes can be found on our website at <http://www.wigan.gov.uk>

## Staff Changes in Development Control

December saw many staff changes in Development Control. Paul Seddon and Sue Orrell have left to take up posts at Lincoln City Council and Auckland Council (New Zealand). Penny McGinty has moved to become DC Manager for the west of the Borough and Graham Dickman has been promoted to DC Manager. He will cover the east of the Borough. Steve Winnard has been promoted to Principal Planning Officer and we anticipate that Richard Taylor will be joining us in the new year from Crewe and Nantwich Council as a Principal Planning Officer. Jon Corcos and Catherine Booth have also been promoted to Planning Officers.

The Development Control Service is well set to maintain the delivery of a high quality service for all our customers and we enter 2006 with a full compliment of able and enthusiastic staff.

## Grand Arcade and Millgate Tower Update

Work on the £120 million Grand Arcade shopping centre in Wigan got underway in early 2005, with bulldozers sweeping away the derelict buildings that have blighted Station Road for the past few years. The construction of the new centre is progressing quickly and much of the steelwork is now in place. The development will cover 428,000 sq. ft, provide over 800 shoppers car parking spaces and will be the new home to stores such as Debenhams, BHS and Next. New names to Wigan include Waterstones, HMV, TKMaxx and H&M. The centre is due to open its doors to shoppers in Easter 2007.

Hot on the heels of the Grand Arcade scheme, Modus Properties have plans to build a 19 storey tower, providing restaurants and bars, offices and 156 apartments. The high quality contemporary design of the building will complement the Grand Arcade and be located at the junction of Riverway and Millgate. The building will make a major contribution to the profile of Wigan by introducing a high quality landmark building at an important town centre 'gateway'. The most vibrant centres have people living, working and socialising in them and this development would contribute positively towards this.

## Equality and Diversity

**The Planning and Regeneration Department are currently assessing whether services we provide are understandable, open, fair and available to everybody.**

**This applies particularly to people with disabilities, those belonging to ethnic minorities, younger and older people, women and those who may feel socially excluded.**

**If you have any comments on the way we provide our services or any ideas to improve them, then please write to us at the Planning and Regeneration Department, Wigan Council, Civic Buildings, New Market Street, Wigan, WN1 1RP or email Dave Melling at [d.melling@wigan.gov.uk](mailto:d.melling@wigan.gov.uk)**

**Any comments you make will remain confidential and will be used only to improve our service delivery.**







