Award Category:	**Design Excellence sponsored by Salus**
Project:	**96 Shenley Road - new build community facility and library Borehamwood**
Client:	**Hertfordshire County Council**
Project Team:	**Mace, Farrans, WSP, Mouchel**

96 Shenley Road is a new community facility and library that brings together and serves the local communities of Borehamwood. The site was offered by way of a lease agreement with the landowners, the Church of England, and the project was led by Hertfordshire County Council in partnership with Hertsmere Borough Council, Borehamwood Town Council and All Saint's Church.

The building is centred on a 'community hub' and walled garden and includes a public library, museum, community centre, internet café, two halls and a variety of meeting rooms.

The contemporary three storey building has been designed to respond to its prominent location on the high street. The main entrance, at the corner of the building, is created by a series of stepped glazed recesses. Glazed curtain walling emphasises the transparency of the building and allows views of the community activities taking place inside.

External materials are contemporary, robust, and low maintenance. White stone coloured render and red facing brickwork complement the colours and materials of the neighbouring Grade II* Listed All Saints Church.

The internal spaces are designed to be flexible and meet the needs of different user groups, partition walls can be closed to create smaller more intimate rooms, or folded back to create

large open spaces. Furniture and fittings are fully coordinated to create a sense of unity.

Judges comments:

"The ethos of this project is very commendable. The prominence of the library and community facilities on the Main Street is excellent. The inclusion of income generating activities such as the café and multi-functional space is very cleverly done. The design is light, transparent, and flexible. If only all our new community centres were considered with such care."