



Award Category: Design Excellence sponsored by Places for People

Project: Cassiobury Park Hub Building, Watford

Client: Watford Borough Council

Architect: Knox Bhavan Architects



The Cassiobury Park Hub is a significant new multi-purpose community building in Cassiobury Park, Watford. A single storey steel frame building which sits on a concrete podium, The Cassiobury Hub is an elegant, central destination point that sits within the landscape rather than on it. Designed to have minimal energy consumption, the building is orientated to take full advantage of the sun and has been built with robust materials, maximising insulation and using energy generated by solar panels alone. A rainwater-harvesting tank collects water, and a low energy air-source pump maintains a constant temperature, ensuring high performance for energy conservation.

Judges' comments:

"This public building has made a significantly positive impact on the park. People love it. Good design and some clever thinking have created a distinct character for the park that could form the basis of similar interventions in this and other public spaces.

"The clever section enables the building to be designed in-the-round with the building appearing one-storey when viewed from the park, whilst opening up to two-storeys on the paddling pool side. Crisp detailing, a limited palette that includes gabion walls, and large glazed areas adds to the feeling of light, solidity and permanence."