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**Newsflash!** Visit [www.aylesburyvleadvantage.co.uk](http://www.aylesburyvleadvantage.co.uk) on 1st August 2009 to view our new 'interactive' website!

## Bourg Walk wins design award

Aylesbury's Bourg Walk bridge won The Institution of Civil Engineers Engineering Excellence Award 2009.

Visitors and pedestrians first impressions of Aylesbury is now one of space and light. The new landscaping of the station forecourt, the curved staircases leading to the car park, the graceful curved shape of Bourg Walk bridge and the tree lined access to Friarage Road create a positive environment for able and disabled visitors alike.

Enamelled art work on the walls of the underpass on Great Western Street invites the visitor into the town centre where the new architecture meets with the traditional buildings edging the 'shared space' in front of the Travel Information Centre. A journey through change, a journey which epitomises 'Aylesbury...(is) a great place to grow'!

## Aylesbury Design Awards

Aylesbury Vale Advantage, Howard Sharp and Partners, Savills and Waddesdon Manor are co-sponsoring this 16th year of the annual AVDC Design Awards Scheme, which recognises, celebrates and promotes the best examples of good design in the built environment. Entries to the competition range from new buildings, structures, extensions, refurbishments, public spaces and landscapes. The judging criteria consider context, including local distinctiveness; quality of design and construction; fitness for purpose; sustainability; innovation and attractiveness. The entries are from anywhere within Aylesbury Vale District so these Design Awards contribute to the 'Sense of Place' which makes Aylesbury Vale such an attractive environment in which to live and work.

Schemes are judged in September by Councillors and built environment professionals. Winners are announced at an evening ceremony held in November.





### First example of sustainable homes (Code level 4) being built in Bucks

Aylesbury's first homes to be built to Level 4 of the Code of Sustainable Homes\* are underway.

The building, containing seven one bedroom flats, is being constructed as part of 'Project Care', a tripartite initiative between Housing Solutions Ltd., The Fremantle Trust and Bucks County Council. The flats will provide high quality sustainable accommodation for people with learning disabilities.



The initial design which included the incorporation of photovoltaic cells to provide 10% renewable energy exceeded the requirements for Code Level 3 so Housing Solutions Ltd.

chose to construct to a higher sustainability rating. The roof space proved to be large enough and of the right orientation to host an increase in photovoltaic tiles and the design enabled the increase in under floor and roof space insulation to achieve the Code Level 4 standard.

This construction was enabled via a grant from The Homes & Communities Agency as a result of the support given by Aylesbury Vale District Council.



FRONT ELEVATION NW



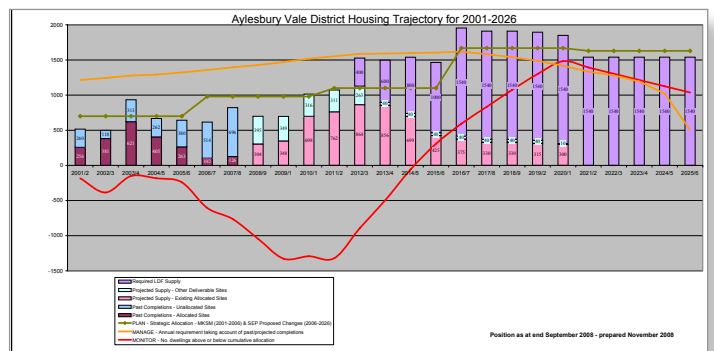
REAR ELEVATION SE

\* The Code for Sustainable Homes is a tool to assess the environmental performance of new-build homes. It enables housing developers from the public and private sectors to measure and improve the design specification and construction quality of schemes against a unified nationally recognised rating, providing impetus for a step change in sustainable home building practice. The Code contributes to the achievement of sustainable development, which aims to provide a better quality of life, now and for future generations. The Code assists this by reducing the environmental impacts of the construction and use of our new homes, particularly the reduction of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and climate change.

### Housing Trajectory

744 dwellings were completed during 2008/09 which represents 75.9% of the 980 dwellings annual target. This total surpassed the expected delivery target of 699 homes.

It is anticipated that in the 12 to 18 months completions will be lower due to the fact that a large percentage of dwellings in the pipeline are under the control of a handful of national/international development companies who appear to have been hardest hit by the current "credit crunch".



The (draft) housing trajectory – position as at end of March 2009



### Entrepreneurial Aylesbury

Aylesbury Vale has one of the highest levels of entrepreneurial activity in the UK and to continue to facilitate this growth in the longer term AVA is commissioning the 'Enterprising Aylesbury' study so that this success story is factored into the future use of the existing employment land allocations.

The study will draw together a series of conclusions and recommendations arising from the views of some local businesses on the suitability of employment land configurations and their locations. Gaps in employment land allocation and the needs of new and existing businesses and entrepreneurial graduates will also be considered.



### 'Kick Start' to development...

The Homes & Communities Agency (HCA) ([www.homesandcommunities.co.uk](http://www.homesandcommunities.co.uk)) launched their 'Kickstart Housing Delivery' programme (£400m) in May following the Chancellor's Budget 2009.

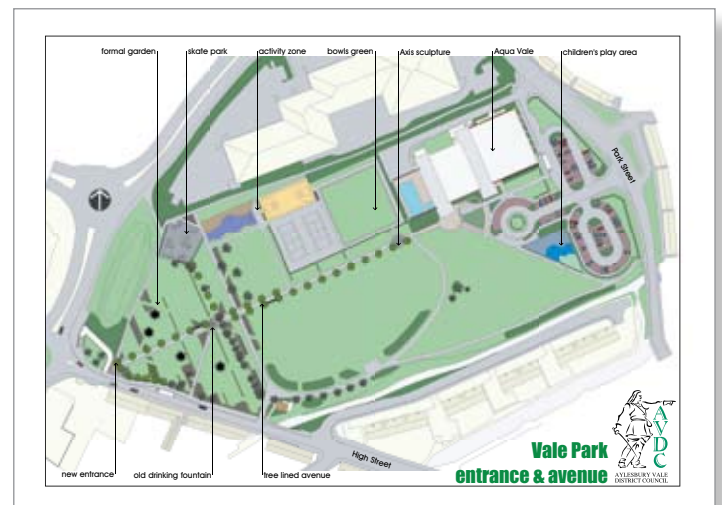
The Kickstart Housing Delivery programme is intended to assist sites with planning permission and ready to develop but which have stalled as a result of the economic crisis and its impact on the construction industry.

AVA is working closely with key developers and construction companies in the Aylesbury area to explore a variety of measures to kickstart housing delivery. This includes support for bids to the HCA under the 'Kickstart Housing Delivery Programme' for some of the local key development sites.

### Aylesbury Town Centre Master Plan (draft) and Vale Park

AVA and its partners, including Members and key stakeholders, are continuing to develop the vision and draft master plan for Aylesbury Town Centre. A programme is being prepared to ensure that everyone has an opportunity to contribute to and shape the plan, and its key priorities. It is expected that public consultation on a final draft will be carried out early in 2010.

One example of how changes to Aylesbury are being built in to the vision for Aylesbury Town Centre is Vale Park. Currently, to improve connections to the town, the park is being slightly extended and some trees at the edge are being removed to help create a new entrance on the corner of High Street. Work is also underway to look at possible changes to the High Street roundabout junction to see if pedestrian access to Vale Park can be further improved.



Other ideas that are being considered to help 'green' the town centre include the possible creation of 'pocket parks' that would allow residents, shoppers, employees and visitors to sit, eat and rest around the town.



an example of a pocket park