



## PRESS RELEASE

### Loughton Building Design Awards 2021

This year, the judging panel unanimously agreed to make two awards in the Loughton Building Design Award Scheme for 2021:

#### 2 Connaught Avenue, IG10 4FB



#### Royal Oak Close, IG10 4FD



The award scheme was introduced by the town council in 2012 to recognise and reward individual examples of good design and construction, and to raise public awareness of the built environment within Loughton.

We look for building works completed in the previous 12 months that either:

- enhance the town;
- improve a dilapidated building;
- upgrade or enhance a conservation area; or are
- noteworthy in terms of design or innovation.

While the town council is keen to protect and preserve the architectural heritage of Loughton, it recognises the need to provide increased living space to suit modern family needs.

The judges commented on the two successful developments as follows:

#### 2 Connaught Avenue

*The final design of this house that has been converted into flats is excellent. The materials used match in perfectly with the surrounding properties. Visually this was a house that immediately drew the eye to it when viewed from Old Station Road and as such was considered an iconic building in the town. The conversion has enabled it to maintain its looks as a house rather than the block of flats that are housed within. It fits perfectly with the houses in both Ollards Grove and Connaught Avenue that both side onto the site. The final*

*result owes much to both the willingness of the developer to adapt and the council to maintain the street scene to the benefit of the town.*

## Royal Oak Close

*The quality of the work and materials used on this conversion of a much-loved Public House into flats with a number of houses to the rear is excellent. The developer has maintained the heritage frontage aspect on Forest Road whilst also providing much needed housing to the side and rear facing onto Smarts Lane.*

*There is good use of the space available and the flats in the main building do not detract from the look of the frontage.*

The awards would usually be presented by the Chairman of the Planning Committee, Cllr Jill Angold-Stephens at the Annual Town Meeting. However, as this year's meeting was held electronically on 10 March 2021, owing to Covid restrictions, Kevin O'Connor, and David Kavanagh the architect, from Cranbrook, who developed 2 Connaught Avenue; and Richard Higgins of Higgins Homes and a representative from Melville Dunbar Associates who developed Royal Oak Close attended the virtual meeting, in recognition of their respective achievements.

**Note to editor:** For immediate release

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