

MARKET TOWN AWARDS 2007

MARKET TOWN: TODMORDEN

PROJECT NAME: FIELDEN WHARF, TODMORDEN

Partners: Todmorden Pride, Yorkshire Forward, Todmorden in Bloom, Calderdale MBC, Upper Calder Valley Renaissance, Todmorden Town Council, Todmorden Town Artist & local sculptor, Local Schools, and Arts Council England

Category: Environment and Culture

The hidden jewel of Todmorden that remained unseen for 50 years has been revealed to visitors, residents, walkers and boaters. Once an eyesore, Todmorden's widest stretch of canal now offers a high quality public realm community facility, and meeting place with enhanced access to the Rochdale Canal.



Todmorden Pride identified the need for high quality public space. With steep sided valleys and back-to-back terrace housing public space in the town is at a premium. A place to just sit and 'be' was seen to be invaluable to the residents of a busy, congested market town.

The former Sonarga restaurant (left), located in Todmorden's conservation area, sat as a derelict eyesore on a gateway into Todmorden since 2000, blocking the vista to the wharf area and recently restored canal.

The building was purchased with funding from Yorkshire Forward, demolished and replaced with a high quality landscaping scheme (right). Todmorden Pride was involved in the design of the landscaping work, and the local community designed decorative panels and fish sculptures.

The community of Todmorden as a whole has benefited from the completion of this project – the space created has proved ideal for all, from individuals to large groups, to gather, picnic and relax. The launch event on 15th April, 2007 attracted over 100 people, and at long last boats have begun to stop and moor up.



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