



arbury park

AN AWARD WINNING NEW COMMUNITY

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The homes may still be under construction, but Arbury Park is leading the way when it comes to building thriving communities.

bpha has won an award for its community development work at the 900-home development near Cambridge.

The award was made in the category of Sustainable Communities by the National Black and New Communities Network, and recognises good practice in resident involvement at Arbury Park.

It follows the appointment of a dedicated Community Development Officer for the site, employed by **bpha** to work with residents and partners including South Cambridgeshire District Council, Cambridge City Council and fellow housing providers Places for People, King Street Housing Trust and Papworth Trust.

Abbie Mason, whose role is joint-funded by **bpha**, South Cambridgeshire District Council and the other housing association partners, has been working since January to help develop a sense of community as the homes take shape.

The award follows an information day, held early on in the development, which gave the area's existing and prospective residents an opportunity to find out more about the plans for the new school, community facilities and affordable housing.

It also recognises the support provided to new residents through initiatives such as a welcome pack of local information and events held to bring neighbours together.

As a result of this work, residents are becoming actively involved. One has already set up a website about Arbury Park, another is set to join the parish council and a third has become a governor at the new school.

Abbie is also working closely with residents and all partners on developing the community art which will be a real feature throughout Arbury Park.

bpha is taking the lead in community development at Arbury Park based on its expertise elsewhere in the region, where it is working in both new and existing communities, with diverse groups and across all tenures.

Last year the association appointed a New Communities Development Manager to oversee its work at new sites.

John Cross, Chief Executive of **bpha**, said: "We are committed to creating places where people are proud to live.

"Abbie's work is putting community at the heart of the development, and everyone involved should be proud of this achievement."

Making the award, Bill Brown of the National Black and New Communities Network, said: "**bpha**'s work at Arbury Park is a model of good practice that others can learn from. I hope that it will be replicated across the country."



Bill Brown presented **bpha** with a sustainable communities award



Abbie Mason arrived to champion residents' needs at Arbury Park

"We are committed to creating places where people are proud to live."

John Cross, Chief Executive

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