

# Press Release

## THE MALTHOUSE PROJECT SCOOPS ANOTHER AWARD

St Matthew Housing (SMH) and St Edmundsbury Borough Council were presented with Architectural Awards for "excellence in architecture and environmental enhancement in the town" for the restoration of The Malthouse Project, Elsey's Yard, from the Bury St Edmunds Society at its Annual General Meeting on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> June 2007.

The £2.1 million restoration project of a 17<sup>th</sup> century maltings was completed in April 2007, thanks to funding from St Edmundsbury Borough Council, Bury Town Trust, Heritage Lottery Fund and other trusts and statutory sources.

The old maltings, now called The Malthouse Project, provides a café, Heritage Centre, community rooms for hire, accommodation for local people and central offices for SMH.

"It is the second architectural award The Malthouse Project has scooped this year, after receiving a Craftmanship Award from the Suffolk Association of Architects in May, said Kevin Marshall, Corporate Services & Development Director at SMH.

"We are very proud to receive acknowledgement for the hard work and craftsmanship of the building, and this award means a lot to everyone who has been involved with the project."

Cllr Nigel Aitkens, St Edmundsbury Borough Council's Portfolio Holder for Economy and Asset Management, said, "We are really pleased to be handed this award in recognition of the excellent work which has been carried out in close partnership with St Matthew Housing. At St Edmundsbury, we are happy to have been able to help financially towards this project, which has brought the malthouse back to life in a scheme which has also helped provide valuable new housing.

"Bringing this significant historic building back into use is a tremendous achievement and we are delighted to have been involved."

John Abbott, Chair of the Bury St Edmunds Society, said, "The Society presents the Architectural award for excellence in any field of design and this year was pleased to reward the work of the Architects; Milburn, Leverington, Thurlow, in repairing and restoring the Maltings. This building is an important part of the industrial history of the town and it is hoped that with St Matthew Housing as owner its preservation is assured."

**ENDS**

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## NOTES TO EDITORS

1. If you would like to receive photographs by email of The Malthouse Project before and after its restoration, please contact Sarah Yarrow at SMH on 01284 732574.
2. **The Malthouse Project** in Elsey's Yard, just off Risbygate Street, is an important landmark for St Matthew Housing and the town, providing Bury St Edmunds with an important training and support facility for local people in need. St Matthew Housing residents, service users and volunteers will work and train in a café, which will be open to the public to enjoy late summer 2007. The project also includes a Heritage Centre, which will become a valuable addition to the Town Heritage Trail.
3. **The history of The Malthouse Project** dates back to c1620 when a barn was first built here. The barn was built from reclaimed timbers that were sourced locally from the Bury Abbey. In c1700 the barn was converted into a maltings which operated through until 1917. The maltings was then purchased, along with several other malthouses, pubs and a brewery, by Greene King. Since 1980 the building has been left to the elements. It was taken under the wing of St Edmundsbury Borough Council in 1993 after the building was put on the 'at risk' register by English Heritage. Working in partnership with St Edmundsbury Borough Council, Bury St Edmunds Town Trust and the Heritage Lottery Fund, St Matthew Housing has renovated the building and built five new homes. Work on the refurbishment and adjacent new build accommodation started in March 2006 and the building was opened to visitors, staff and residents in April 2007.
4. **St Matthew Housing** (SMH) provides supported accommodation for single people who are either homeless or unsuitably housed across East Anglia and the East Midlands. SMH also provides resettlement support to enable clients to successfully move on to independent accommodation and outreach support to external clients who are at risk of losing their tenancies and becoming homeless. The charity works in a way that enables people to achieve their individual goals, at their own pace and in their own communities.
5. A number of contractors were involved with the restoration of The Malthouse Project. They were: Milburn Leverington Thurlow Architects, Cocksedge Building Contractors, Northcroft, The Morton Partnership, WSP and Sherriff Tiplady Associates.