

Street's ht road

... way people see the
...ff working for busi-
... Guildford Street and
...eapside also found road-
...de the working day
...er.
...arren, from Meldrum
...citors in Guildford
...: "I know colleagues
...major delays getting

... was just not moving, so
... close to work but
... t any nearer."
... k has also affected bus
... and around Luton,
... ngers facing regular
... p to 15 minutes.
... elley from Centerbus
... ere were problems fur-
... n the motorway for
... e delays were longer
... s were going into town
... hose delays could
... p.
... ime of year when it's
... larker we don't want
... passengers waiting

...rid, which was
... for the work, has apol-
... lays, which included
... weeks of disruption
... kmen replaced an
... n of main that was
... e original project.
... c Quaine from the
... said: "We consid-
... e work in stages, but
... ed safer to introduce
... ems.
... es in the area were
... and kept up to date
... ."

Team's 'home win' shows town talent

by John Cole

INNOVATORS behind the growth of more than 60 small businesses won a top award at the UK Multi-cultural Awards for Competitiveness and Enterprise staged by the University of Luton.

Luton & Dunstable Innovation Centre carried off the MACE award for Diversity in a Community Organisation, which was sponsored by the Government Office for the Eastern Region (Go-East).

Set up six years ago, the centre was given the job of nurturing knowledge based enterprises.

Now it supports businesses ranging from high-tech biosensor companies and software designers to environmental and graphic and creative enterprises. All reflect some of the brilliant new talent and diversity within Luton, says centre officer Lynette Warren.

Earlier this year the centre won a Luton & Dunstable Partnership award as one of the most successful local regeneration projects.

It started in a converted chapel in Adelaide Street and has since expanded to Britannia House, the Hat Factory and Marsh Farm.

It offers membership options which allow people to work at home, or to rent part time or full time office space.

The centre is run as a fully sustainable business and Lynette Warren and manager Mike Anstey develop ser-

TIME TO CELEBRATE:
Lynette Warren and Mike Anstey flanked by Paul Witcombe of Go-East and Luton mayor Haji Abid.



vices that help their tenants, and other businesses.

The centre won funding to develop virtual support for disadvantaged groups which allows them to work from home using high tech but low cost internet technology.

The project, called DEVICES, also links regional centres of excellence and community centres in Luton.

Diversity is integral to the centre's success. Sixty per cent of the businesses are run by minority groups, 38 per cent are managed by women, and the mix includes both private enterprises and 14 social enterprises.

A partnership of authorities and groups runs the centre, including the university itself.



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