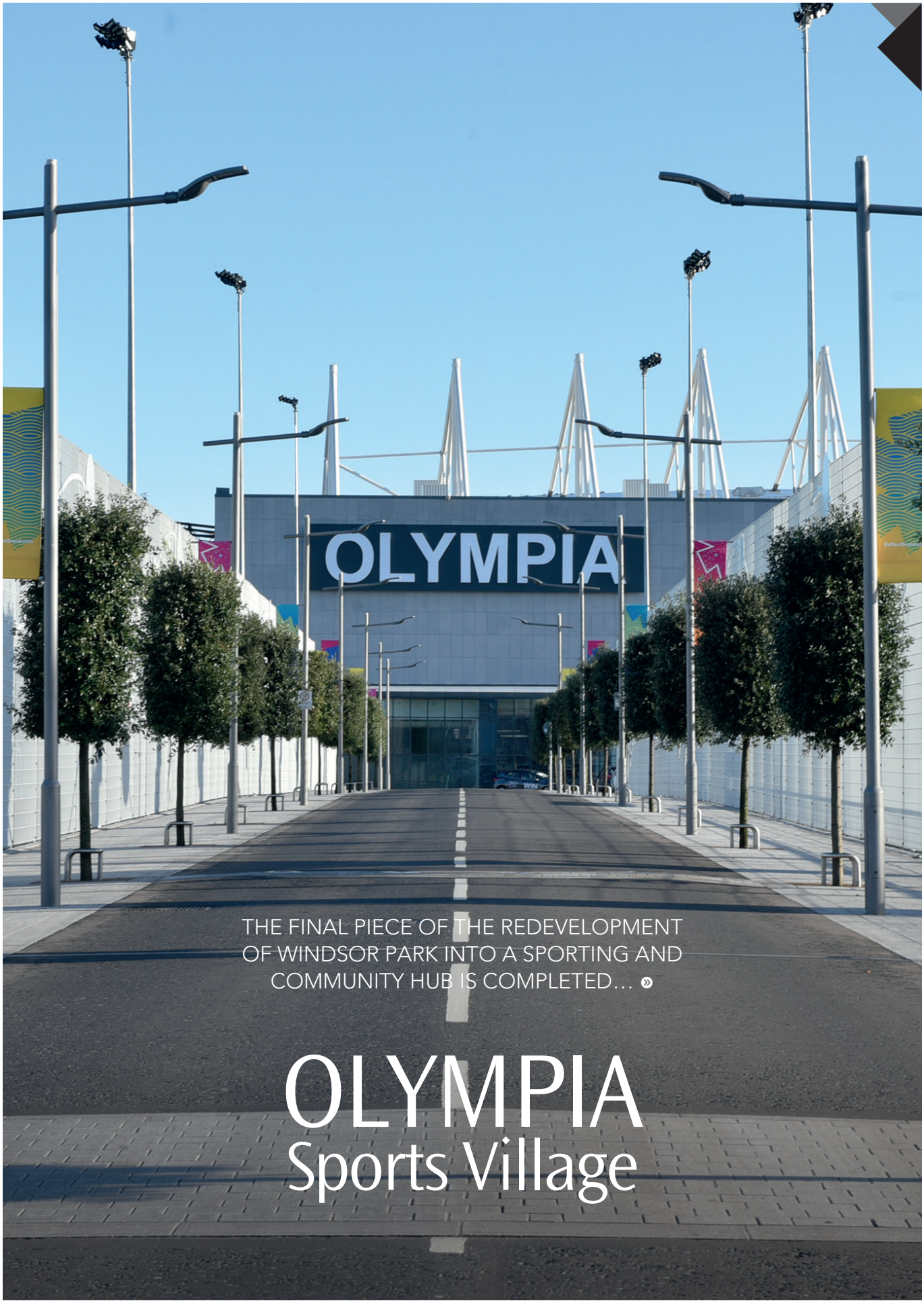

THE FINAL PIECE OF THE REDEVELOPMENT OF WINDSOR PARK INTO A SPORTING AND COMMUNITY HUB IS COMPLETED… »

OLYMPIA
Sports Village

PROJECT IN FOCUS

MAIN CONTRACTOR

WOODVALE CONSTRUCTION GIVES EVERYONE A SPORTING CHANCE BY COMPLETING THIS COMPLEX CO-ORDINATION PROJECT…

Transforming the site of the Olympia Leisure Centre into a vibrant new Sports Village was a complex, logistical challenge for Woodvale Construction Company Ltd.

Following on from the redevelopment of the IFA National Football Stadium at Windsor Park and the opening of the new Olympia Leisure Centre, the talented team at Woodvale Construction completed the final piece in the puzzle of Belfast's new sporting and community hub.

The Olympia Sports Village at Boucher Road has been built on the site of the former leisure centre and incorporates a floodlit synthetic sports pitch, a children's play park and new car-parking facilities for Belfast City Council. The project also involved a joint venture between the council and Linfield Football Club for the redevelopment of Midgley Park to include a floodlit 3G pitch, a 200-seat spectator stand and sports pavilion as well as a dedicated parking area.

All these facilities are accessed by a tree-lined boulevard with featured lighting and bespoke handcrafted six-metre tall sporting silhouettes.

However, the creation of these superb new facilities was straightforward when compared to the co-ordination of the work.

This regeneration project was completed in four phases, starting with the uplifting of Midgely Park, and then the drainage and attenuation tanking of the site, followed by the construction of the new pavilion, changing rooms and pitch for Linfield FC, and concluding with the new Olympia 3G facilities, playground, car park and access roads as well as all the associated site works and landscaping.

Woodvale Construction's reputation has been built on delivering projects of this nature to the highest possible standards but it was the overall co-ordination of the work that put the team to the test.

The biggest challenge was ensuring effective access for the public to the facilities at the new national stadium and the leisure centre, including international football games and high profile boxing matches as well as having to contend with Christmas and Halloween events and also pop concerts in the vicinity.

"A major stipulation of the contract required that the Olympia Leisure Centre and football pitch had to remain open," explained Declan McCann MCIOB, Contracts Manager, Woodvale Construction. "We had the added issue of large crowds attending events at Windsor Park, meaning that we were constantly reviewing our plans."

The creation of a new right-hand turn lane and the associated widening and contouring at the notoriously busy Boucher Road added to the complex access issues.

"Everything was carefully planned and we worked closely with the IFA, Linfield FC, Belfast City Council and the PSNI to put various systems in place, depending on the event," added Declan. "We actually carried out the kerbing and tarmac overnight in several phases to suit the traffic management plan."

That dynamic ability to react to different needs is what makes Woodvale Construction the perfect choice for projects of this kind.

Senior site manager, Brian Kelly's proactive approach to prioritising the client's needs was demonstrated by the temporary provision of gas, water and power to the pavilion at Midgely Park until the main supply could be installed.

Declan said, "While it was a lot easier than the other co-ordination aspects, we also had to work closely with Linfield to ensure they could fulfil fixtures."

He added, "We even phased in the play area as the last planned work, as we wanted to avoid attracting children into an area that included a live building site."

This level of forward thinking and planning capabilities really sets Woodvale Construction apart.

"We pride ourselves on our ability of working in partnership with others and that really was put to the test on this job," added Declan. "But we'd like to thank everyone involved in making this project such a success."

PROJECT TEAM…

Client: Belfast City Council and Linfield FC

Main Contractor: Woodvale Construction

Architect: Hamilton Architects

Project Management: Edmond Shipway

Mechanical contractor: Scott & Ewing

Electrical contractor: MFE Electrical

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"Woodvale Construction's reputation has been built on delivering projects to the highest possible standards."

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