

Makers refits Bedford car park



Makers open day at the Allhallows car park, Bedford

A 1960s multi-storey in the centre of Bedford, which had faced demolition, has been refurbished and will now act as a key element of a new gateway to the town centre.

The Allhallows car park, which was reopened to the public over the Easter weekend, has been revamped by Bedford Borough Council at a cost of £8.8m.

The refurbishment, which was carried out by Makers Construction, has seen the car park's exterior and interior remodelled and upgraded.

The old brickwork exterior has

been repaired while multi-coloured aluminium aerofoil fins have been installed to create a more attractive façade. At night LED uplighters create colour washes on the façade.

Inside, extensive repairs to the steel reinforcement and concrete were undertaken to decks and ceilings. The parking decks have been treated with Sika waterproofing systems.

Emseal expansion joints were used to bridge movement joints. The walls and ceilings were painted with anti-carbonation coatings.

The car park's lighting has been replaced with a PIR system which reacts to movement on the decks.

The car park had operated as a pay & display site, requiring enforcement. It is now barrier controlled, with a Metric Amano pay-on-foot system now installed.

A new disabled access lift has been created to provide direct access to what is now a dedicated Blue Badge parking area on level one. The car park's lifts have been replaced and its three stairwells redecorated, with all glazing replaced.

The new look car park has an arcade of stores on its ground floor, whose façades will be upgraded, and is adjacent to the town's bus station, which is being demolished to be replaced by a modern gateway facility.

The rooftop deck is now home to a set of solar panel arrays which generate power and revenue for the local authority.

Makers hosted an open day for clients and car park owners from around the country at the car park on 9 April.