

Project Title: Sustourex (Sustainable Tourism Excellence)
Funding Body: European Regional Development Fund
Company Assisted: Hornby Village Institute
Date: 2006

Background:

Hornby Village Institute is an historic building that has provided the social focus of the village for almost a century. A grade 2 listed building, it was built in 1915 and was extended in the 1950s to create a large dance hall. Over time, however, the building services began to deteriorate and the internal layout made it difficult to provide access to people with limited mobility, so the Hornby Village Trust devised a comprehensive refurbishment plan. The £1.3 million programme was duly approved and received funding support from a variety of sources including the National Lottery and the Lancashire Environment Fund.

The Support Programme:

Sustourex project staff approached the Institute managers in 2006, offering to carry out a thorough environmental review that would identify opportunities to reduce costs through better waste management, energy efficiency and other measures.

A report was compiled by Ian Buckle, Nimtech's environmental consultant, and this identified a number of cost saving opportunities over and above those that the team had already put in place. Sustainability had been a key objective of the recent refurbishment project, so it was recognised that the Institute was already operating to very high standards and with excellent levels of staff awareness. As a result of the construction work, the building already featured energy efficient lighting, roof and wall insulation, double glazing and thermostatically controlled heating. The redevelopment had also afforded an opportunity to fit passive infra-red detection lighting control systems, which ensure that lights in unoccupied rooms could not accidentally be left switched on.

Results:

In recognition of the achievements at the Institute, Ian Buckle presented the team with a Green Tourism Awards plaque made from recycled aluminium. Associated PR work secured valuable publicity in both local and national media and the team expressed its confidence that it would continue to make further savings as more of the report's recommendations were acted upon.

Advisor's Evaluation:

"This is a very impressive example of a popular community centre that is being run according to environmentally sustainable practices. The refurbishment work has given the Village Trust the opportunity to make some very substantial improvements, and I'm pleased to see that it is paying dividends. Not only is the centre being very well used by local people and businesses, but its waste and energy costs are down and this has undoubtedly contributed to its moving into profit only eight months after re-opening. In addition to structural and technical issues, the team has also addressed a number of purchasing and waste management policies as a means of enhancing social and environmental responsibility. It buys local foods, recycled goods and fair-trade products wherever possible, and recycles all glass, paper, cardboard, plastic and metal tins."

Ian Buckle, Nimtech Environmental Consultant.



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