



case study

equal opportunities



Objective One is
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The Objective One Partnership
for Cornwall & the Isles of Scilly

BLISLAND COMMUNITY AMENITY CENTRE

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the project

This project has created a new multi-purpose centre in place of a rusting shipping container that was used for years by the villagers. It includes a post office, village shop, GP consulting room, internet café and three small business units.

The Programme has invested £156,171 from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) in the project which has a total cost of £565,000.

This is a community-led project to build an amenity centre in the village of Blisland. It will boost the economy of the village and surrounding parishes through the provision of local workspace, community services and facilities. The centre provides a consultation suite, reception area, ICT access, Post Office and shop and 90 sqm of workspace, all of which is available to local individuals, groups and businesses. The villagers themselves raised tens of thousands of pounds towards this project.

measures of equal opportunities adopted

The design for the project was drawn up with the help of architects experienced in not only meeting but exceeding the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act. As a result this building meets the needs of all residents in Blisland. The centre provides shopping, a post office, a doctor's surgery and alternative therapies for people in Blisland, some of whom are no longer able to easily leave the village for services elsewhere.

Three disabled car parking spaces have been provided out of a total of nine. In addition there is a specified drop off point in front of the shop. A lay-by has been provided on the ramped road from the car park for those who are mobile but need to rest. An automatically opening door is fitted and, for safety, all glass door panels have been



The front of the new Blisland Community Amenity Centre

fitted with stick-on transfer panels. The post office area has two low level counters. The café provides flexible seating and tables as does the internet café. There are also three separate offices suites, each with level access and toilet and kitchen facilities. The main shop caters for all needs and there is an area set aside for locally made crafts to be sold. The consultation suite is fitted out with full disabled and baby changing facilities.

The facilities in the centre are widely used and owned by the whole community, including young people who are happy to use it as a meeting place. In addition, two elderly residents want to provide cream teas at the centre during the summer months. "It keeps us active," said one.

The centre has an equal opportunities policy which all users are expected to comply with.

benefits of equal opportunities

The project helps elderly people and those with disabilities retain a sense of independence by providing shop, post office, medical facilities and a café in the village. It has provided employment in a rural area and the installation of three new computers means easy access to the Internet.

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The economic benefits of the project are shown in the numbers of people using the shop and effectively recycling local money. Profit, after expenses, is put back into the Blisland Foundation for the benefit of the community.

Stephen Bohane, head of operations in Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly for the South West Regional Development Agency, said: *"This project highlights the South West RDA's increased focus on making rural services more accessible to local communities."*

lessons learnt

Arthur Ludgate of Blisland Community Amenity Centre Management Committee said: *"We tried to think of everything the community wanted. We consulted with all groups young and old and we employed architects who understood not only our needs but also the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act. By exceeding these requirements we have catered for the whole community."*

To other communities planning similar ventures he said, *"Come and talk to us, and make sure you budget your cash flow carefully, try to have an accountant on your committee but, most importantly, consult the end users."*

For more information about how you can incorporate equal opportunities into your project please contact the Objective One Partnership Office on 01872 241379 or email objectiveone@cornwall.gov.uk.



Rear of the new Blisland Community Amenity Centre