

ACTION IN RURAL SUSSEX

AirS Village Halls Service

- Part of Rural Community Action Network of 38 Rural Community Councils
- Supported by ACRE advisory service
- Information Sheets, publications, training,
- Day to day advice – trusteeship, charity law, funding, licensing, hirings, staffing etc.
- Taking up problems/lobbying
- Funded by subs, WSCC, districts, projects

AirS, Village Halls and Climate Change

- Circulation of ACRE “How Green is Your Village Hall” Information Sheet to halls
- Staff trained by NEA to carry out energy efficiency audits of community buildings
- Conference 2007 on role of village halls in improving environmental sustainability
- AirS AGM – raised funding difficulties for interested trustees with DEFRA

Aims today

- 7 energy efficiency surveys carried out with £1800 sponsorship from WSSF
- Show key challenges facing village hall trustees: most halls being charities, having multi purpose use including vulnerable people and many older buildings.
- Show potential for community buildings to contribute to sustainable communities

WSSF Sponsorship

- WSSF sponsorship enabled AirS to carry out 6 energy efficiency surveys at Village Halls in West Sussex, min one per district
- Sussex VH Advisory Group agreed to charge £50 each, so that a seventh hall could benefit, and to give priority to halls over 25 years old.

Balcombe trial e – e survey

- NEA provided form seeking info re pattern of use, fuel consumption and bills.
- Historic 1920s hall with murals, no insulation, cavity walls, fuel costs £2,300 p.a.
- Problems – draughts, cold feet, noisy fans.
- Drew up 11 recommendations in priority order.

Balcombe key findings

- Draught Excluders on doors
- Repair and secure window behind stage
- Double glaze ceiling in lobby
- Insulate main hall ceiling - wool or recycled paper preferable
- Replace fluorescent tubes with 26mm, high frequency ballast, low energy bulbs
- Cavity wall insulation

Halls selected

- Meridian Hall, East Grinstead
- Southwater Village Hall
- West Hoathly Village Hall
- Northchapel Village Hall
- Loxwood Village Hall
- East Preston and Kingston VH
- Sutton VH and Ashurst VH applied

Meridian Hall

- 1985 hall between two listed stable blocks

- Substantial heating problem – gas, water piped from Council offices, rads old, cold in winter causing complaints by elderly.
- Open plan foyer, large roof void open to stores and kitchen.
- Air Handling plant, Air Con units/ASHPs
- Glass atrium, hall glazed either end

Meridian Hall recommendations

- Only 3 low cost measures – replace fluorescent tubes, board up stable vents, draught excluders on lobby doors.
- Others dependent on Council's budget and priority to climate change issues:
- Replace 3 hot water tanks with point of use heaters
- New glazing and fittings to main hall
- Glass atrium has thermal blind, repair and re-glaze.
- Spray glass fibre insulation inside roof or lay quilt, discuss with contractors.
- Modern programmer to heating controls
- Review improvements and obtain costings for renewal of rads/warm air blowers, separating supply vs GSHP.

Funding

Funding for the project came from:

£ 94,500 Defra
 £ 67,000 Parish Council
 £ 50,000 Biffaward
 £ 48,800 Fundraising and donations
 £ 22,500 Viridor
 £ 20,000 EDF Energy
 £ 17,533 Low Carbon Buildings Programme

Renewable energy sources

- Solar Panels for hot water
- Wind turbine for electricity – 5 kW
- Ground source heat pump for heating
- Chestnut cladding & wool insulation
- Stored rainwater recycling system

Key Constraints

- Hall trusts do not have environmental objectives, work must be cost effective.
- Lack of funding for major refurbishment work or energy efficiency measures alone
- VAT on refurbishment work (5% on energy efficiency materials unless DIY, when 17.5%).
- Timeliness of grants – 100% available when new heating needed.

Further Information

- ACRE VH Info Sheet “How Green is Your Hall?”
- NEA website, www.nea.org.uk – “Energy Efficiency in Community Buildings”
- CafE (EST): cafe@est.org.uk. Case studies and surveys.
- Low Carbon Buildings Programme
- Community Sustainable Energy Programme

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- 01273 473422/ 01243 544366