

Green Communities Case Study

Blisworth Historic Building Trust



The Sun, Moon and Stars pub in Blisworth was once the hub of the Northamptonshire village. But times have changed and the building now lies derelict. It has become an eyesore in the middle of a pretty conservation area.

By 2007, locals had had enough. The council had just taken over the building, and were deciding what to do with it. Villagers wanted to see it made into something the whole community could use – a restaurant was one idea. They also felt strongly that any refurbishment should be done in the most environmentally friendly way possible.

So, residents came together to form the Blisworth Historic Building Trust to make sure their voice was heard.

Blisworth Historic Building Trust and the Energy Saving Trust

Blisworth Historic Building Trust wanted to research how the building's carbon footprint could be made as small as possible if it was refurbished. But, knowing only a little about energy efficiency, they weren't sure where to start. That's where the Energy Saving Trust came in.

Diana Bourgoigne, chair of Blisworth Historic Building Trust, contacted the Energy Saving Trust for advice. She was

put in touch with their community programme.

Blisworth Historic Building Trust's achievements

With the Energy Saving Trust's support, the trust has learned much more about energy efficiency, and in the fastest way possible. 'The Energy Saving Trust saved us a huge amount of time,' says Diana. 'Without them we would have had to do an awful lot of research. They gave us information we wouldn't have got in any other way.'

This has made the trust more confident to promote energy efficiency in any proposals for the building. Diana says: 'We wouldn't have had the ammunition to talk about what we wanted to try to get in place if it hadn't been for the Energy Saving Trust'

The trust has taken the first step towards getting the building renovated. They applied for and won funding from the Architectural Heritage Fund to do a study to see exactly what was needed to refurbish the building and how much it would cost.

The Energy Saving Trust is also helping the group put together a more detailed plan of how the building's carbon footprint could be kept as small as possible. An Energy Saving Trust consultant from its

expert support panel visited the Sun, Moon and Stars and wrote a report on how it could be made energy efficient.

Suggestions included fitting a ground source heat pump, which draw warmth from the ground to use to heat water or in radiators; fitting double glazing and insulation; and heating the building using a wood chip burning stove in the cellar.

Blisworth Historic Building Trust's challenges

Most villagers support the Blisworth Historic Building Trust's goal of refurbishing the Sun, Moon and Stars. However, some are worried that they might have to pay towards the project or that council taxes could go up if work is done on the building.

The future for Blisworth Historic Building Trust

The council is still considering what to do with the Sun, Moon and Stars. If the feasibility study shows that it is viable to renovate the building, Blisworth Historic Building Trust may look to manage the renovations, and get funding to do so.

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