

Putting the Heart Back into Brimscombe through Community Enterprise



Introduction

In the past Brimscombe Port and Mills was the heart of the Brimscombe Community. When the regeneration of the Port and Canal was discussed in a series of community meetings in 2003 and 2004 the vision of 'putting the heart back into Brimscombe' was developed with housing and jobs integrated with a significant water basin and a community run focal point at the heart with café, meeting space and starter employment space. This vision was developed in the knowledge that the existing social centre, built with public contributions, was near the end of its life and was not in a helpful location in relation to the Port redevelopment.



Members of the community visited a series of canalside redevelopments and community centres to learn from experience throughout the South-West. Community meetings and a community survey developed a vision for the centre and the Parish Council paid for a firm of architects to draw-up a possible design. The District Council included a community enterprise centre into its plans for the re-development of Brimscombe Port.

Community Enterprise Centre Vision

The Community Enterprise Centre will form the heart of a new community of 200 new homes in Brimscombe Port, new and existing businesses in the surrounding area and the wider Brimscombe and Thrupp community. It will also serve the needs of visitors to the Port with a café and toilets. There is also commercial demand for high quality rental space for training courses, weddings and other events that will guarantee its commercial sustainability.

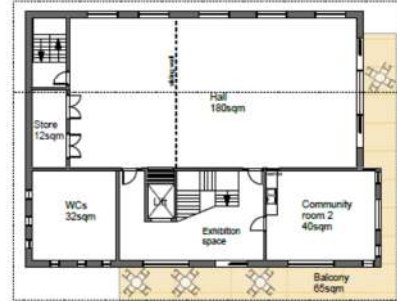
Key components

- Port basin frontage and design giving 'wow' factor making this a preferred venue for community activities and commercial hire;
- Kitchen and foyer café with outside café seating area and safe toddler play-space;
- Large hall, seating 100 (potential to be sub-divided) – suitable for community meetings, fitness events, wedding receptions, training events etc.;
- 1-2 Smaller meeting rooms;
- Youth drop-in area with pool, bar football, outside table tennis (aimed at pre-pub aged teens in the evenings and other ages during the day);
- Adequate storage space for different user groups;
- Hot desking, business start-up incubator;
- Exemplar environmental building with real-time monitoring of energy use etc. for educational purposes;
- Adequate parking, including disabled parking;
- Provision of toilets and other facilities for port visitors and boaters.
- Employing a paid manager (may be linked to running the café). Around 670 m² accommodation



Possible additional components depending on demand and funding

- Interpretation/heritage centre for the canal/port;
- Outdoor table tennis/gym equipment;
- Health service provision;
- Children's centre provision;
- Adult education provision.



First Floor

Total Internal floor area = 670sqm