Bungay Community Centre – Environmental Responsibility Statement

This Environmental Responsibility Statement gives both an overview of the building under construction, from the architects, together with details of the various initiatives that the Community Centre management team hopes to implement and to encourage all centre users to adopt. These initiatives include a lot of (mostly) small, low cost actions we are taking with the objective of making a significant difference to the carbon footprint and the cost of running the new Community Centre. The guiding philosophy is that it is important to look at low cost ways of saving energy before we consider the expensive solutions.

Overview

The new Bungay Community Centre was always intended to embody high sustainable and energy efficient elements. Since 2010 when the first scheme iteration was tabled there have been numerous changes in approach and many of the original stakeholders have withdrawn and budgets have correspondingly dwindled. The building that is now to be constructed does not therefore reflect the high civic ideals of the original building but nor does it represent bad practice and clearly has achieved current building regulation compliance.

The original conception of a pre-fabricated timber structure is preserved as is the desire that it be clad in natural materials. The insulation values of the fabric meets or exceeds minimum requirements and as a framed structure reasonably good levels of air-tightness may be achieved. The building will be largely naturally lit and ventilated with the exception of the main hall where this will be augmented by mechanical ventilation employing a heat recovery unit.

Whilst an essentially domestic heating system is to be installed there is no reason why ASHP or similar energy source could not be installed at a later date given an underfloor heating system is proposed that capitalizes on low-grade heat. A similar situation exists for roof-mounted PV and both of these initiatives were previously consented to by the Planners - it is only capital outlay that prevents their implementation. Surface water is to discharge locally to the surrounding ground whilst the presence of a sewer on the site makes this the most sensible solution for foul water disposal.

The kitchen is to be sourced (second hand) from charitable donors and it is only through goodwill that this building is now to be built at all with insufficient funds for even decoration.

Recycling, Purchasing & Communications

We will aim to recycle:-
Paper, cardboard, tins, plastic and glass bottles, batteries, silver foil and garden waste
We plan to install water butts and use the recycled rainwater for the grounds
We aim to re-use office paper, plastic bags, feed bags etc and try to keep refuse to a minimum.

We will use phosphate & chlorine free cleaning materials to avoid the risk of damaging animal & plant life.

We will purchase toilet paper, kitchen roll etc made from recycled paper.
We will provide 100% degradable refuse and waste bin sacks for use for refuse that cannot be recycled.
We will where possible and practical, purchase in bulk and dilute concentrated cleaning products. This reduces the "Transport Toll" reducing fuel and carbon emissions associated with shipping them. Also, it reduces the number of plastic containers.
We will decant diluted products into re-fillable containers for use to further reduce the use of plastic.
We will use e-mail & our website to promote and administer the Community Centre where possible, reducing the amount of paper used.

Use of Energy

The building will be well insulated, so that heat will not escape unnecessarily.
We will opt for electricity produced from renewable sources, making regular reviews of electricity prices and suppliers from renewable sources.
We will opt to purchase our gas from a supplier who offsets the residual carbon emissions from their supply, by investing in carbon reduction schemes across the globe. In due course we anticipate sourcing a supplier that offers 100% green gas using biogas generated in gasmills processing grass.
Lockable programmable thermostats will be utilized where possible, and the money spent will rapidly prove to be worth it as heating money is saved.
Lighting represents a high percentage of the energy use and CO2 emissions of non-domestic buildings. We will receive the benefit of installing new energy efficient lighting.
It should be possible to cut consumption by 70% or more compared with the old community centre.
We will line dry washing such as tea towels where possible.
We will install an efficient gas fired boiler, which we will ensure is regularly serviced.
When purchasing new electrical appliances, we will ensure they are energy efficient.

User Participation

We hope that users will support us in our efforts to conserve energy and water, by simply turning off lights that are not needed, and we will ask that visitors use water considerately.
We will encourage visitors to recycle and will provide facilities to recycle glass, cardboard, paper, tins and plastics.
We will ask visitors to follow our suggestions for the disposal of various types of waste, in order to minimize pollution.
We will install cycle racks in order to encourage users to cycle to the centre, and by siting the new centre closer to the larger residential area of the town will encourage users to walk to the centre.
It is also planned to install electric car charging points.

Enjoying Nature

Birds will be encouraged with nest-boxes.
We intend to pursue a policy of cultivating native hedging, trees and flowers which attract birds and insects.
We intend to encourage other wildlife by creating dead wood piles and using insect attractive plants.
We hope to develop an area of the field as a wildflower area and we will try to follow a mowing programme that is sympathetic to plants & wildlife.
We will try to minimise the use of chemicals in the grounds.
We will comply with the requirements of environmental legislation and approved codes of practice to minimise the risk associated with environmental and social emissions.

Conclusion

As emphasized by the architects in the overview, and stated previously, the design and features of the building now under construction have been dictated by the funding available. Should support and funding be forthcoming additional sustainability and environmentally friendly features could be added at a later stage.
Given the drain on resources presented by the current Honeypot Community Centre, a building constructed decades ago, when energy use was less of a consideration, and never intended to be a permanent structure, provision of a new centre has become increasingly urgent.
It was also vital that the old centre be maintained and operational until the new one is complete, and use of a local contractor willing to undertake the contract on this basis has achieved this condition.