

Refurbishment and Sustainable Energy Sourcing

SLEAFORD LEISURE CENTRE: NORTH KESTEVEN

Key features

Environmental sustainability initiatives and improvements:

- Community consultation to establish an effective and sustainable solution
- Partnering with local renewable energy plant for heating supply
- Cost-effective refurbishment avoiding new build capital outlay
- Installation of LED lighting and pool tank insulation
- Refurbishment of original 1910 bell filters
- Pool upgrade to modern standards

The History of the Pool

Sleaford outdoor swimming pool has been open since 1886, and despite being updated in 1981 was still in need of further refurbishment, with increasing maintenance costs and reducing turnstile numbers.

The priorities for the District Council were to continue to support the health and well-being of the community whilst also offering value for money. After reviewing a number of options, the Council took the decision to invest in the redevelopment of the facility in a sustainable manner to include transport factors, energy efficiency, community needs, and sustainable energy provision.

The Project

Following some careful planning, £2.9m was invested in redeveloping the existing facility and incorporate a range of sustainability measures. It now operates as Sleaford Leisure Centre and offers fitness facilities (gym), group exercise (aerobics), personal training, sauna / steam rooms, swimming pool and children's splash pool. The project has been a great success, and at c 50% of the cost of a new centre, has led to an increase of over 60% in turnstile numbers.

Transport and Community

The Sleaford swimming pool is a community facility, and a survey of 3,000 households showed a clear preference to keep the current site open within the town centre, and remove the need to drive to a new site. In addition to the survey, the Council held consultation meetings to discuss all the options, and, once a strategy was agreed, continued to provide progress updates to the local people. Taking into account the need to close the centre for the works, it also provided details of alternative facilities that could be used in the intervening time period.



Entrance prior to refurbishment



New entrance after project completion

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Energy Efficient Refurbishment

The upgrade included a number of energy efficiency measures such as the installation of LED lighting, additional insulation of the pool tank, and full refurbishment of the original 1910 bell filters. The five lane pool has also been transformed to a level deck, with its base and gradient modified to meet Sport England guidelines.

Upgrade of disabled changing facilities to encourage greater use, a more spacious entrance, a gymnasium and weights room, and the addition of a sauna and steam room were also included.

Sustainable Power and Heat Generation

The Leisure Centre is the first of its kind in the UK to be fully heated by a sustainable district heating system that is fired with straw bales provided by farms within a 50 mile radius of the site. The plant was being designed to provide enough electricity for 65,000 homes and excess heat is provided to five public and community buildings in the centre of town. This included the swimming pool, the local football club, the bowling club, a primary school and the council's own offices. It is estimated that the heat provided from the power plant will save c £15,000 on heating and hot water bills each year to the centre.

Awards

The project has received national recognition for its concept and design and is testament to the excellent work undertaken.



Upgraded pool hall with level deck pool edge



Straw burning power station supplying district heating

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..Sustainable planning principles help provide improved leisure facilities that meet the aspirations of the community and help promote healthier lifestyles across the whole district...

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Ian Fytche

Chief Executive, North Kesteven District Council

See the 'Sustainable Clubs' section of the Sport England website for general guidance specific to sports clubs and other examples of energy saving measures available at:

<http://www.sustainableclubs.co.uk/>

For further information on sustainability and funding support that is specific to a particular sport, clubs should contact their National Governing Body

Click here for 'User Guide'

Click here for current 'Design and Cost Guidance'

All photographs provided by North Kesteven District Council