

The Phoenix Community Resource Hub Ltd

The Phoenix Looks Forward

On the 25th of January The Phoenix hosted the first seminar of the year focusing on sustainable buildings and sustainable communities, the event was organised by The Phoenix Centre and Kent Rural Towns. Over 40 delegates and guests travelled from across the southeast region to attend the event which showcased the regional award winning Phoenix Youth & Community Centre, possibly the most innovative and environmentally friendly refurbishment of a community building in Kent to date.

Delegates heard from members The Phoenix Project team including Phil Scott project leader, local architect Mark Hall of CYMA and Chris Norris of the Woodley Coles Partnership on the importance and complexities of 'green' refurbishment as well as the techniques required to manage and fund complex projects. A tour of the building focused on the innovative features such as recycled yoghurt pots that look like marble, natural rubber flooring, hempcrete, recycled bricks and hard wood as well as renewable energy and water saving technology.

The afternoon session focused on local young people and their contribution to the planning and delivery of the project, the creative activities they have undertaken since its opening and included the showing of a DVD produced by local young people that aired their views and opinions about local issues. They were supported by guest speakers Dr Stephen Ladyman MP who spoke about young people and the environment and The Chairman of Kent County Council Mr Leyland Ridings dealt with the importance Sustainable Communities and cross generation communication.

Phil Scott Chair of the Phoenix Centre: This was a wonderful, well attended day, a great opportunity to share ideas and best practice with representatives from communities across the whole region, it's a good feeling to know that all of our effort is appreciated by so many people and that we have helped to put Sandwich on the sustainability map.

Chair of KCC: The Phoenix Centre has clearly improved a local facility and the services that it offers the community and young people alike. It has helped to invest in cross generation revival of community spirit, the development of skills in setting up projects, an improved environment and enhanced communications throughout the community.

Chair of KCC: Sandwich South has relatively few facilities and The Phoenix Centre is doing much for social sustainability. Facilities like these help to improve community spirit and prevent local people have to commute elsewhere for the services they require, which would have a detrimental impact upon the economic sustainable of the rest of the town.

Dr Stephen Ladyman MP: The Phoenix Centre team have shown what can be achieved when young people are involved in decision making and trusted with responsibility.

Dr Stephen Ladyman MP: The Phoenix Centre team are in pace with the Foresight Programme, which has demonstrated that the environmental decisions that we make today will alter the way the world is in 50 years. Those of us with the responsibility need to make these decisions that will affect the world that today's young people will inherit so we need to involve them today in making those decisions.