

Garrigill lies within the North Pennine Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, in the shadow of Cross Fell near the source of the South Tyne. The Coast to Coast long distance cycle route passes through the village.

The village hall provides a meeting space for the local population of under 200. It also provides limited accommodation for those travelling along the cycle route.



Garrigill Village Hall

Background

Garrigill Village Hall was originally built in the mid 19th Century and was used as a Church Institute. In 1989 it and the glebe land was purchased by the community. A dilapidated part of the building was demolished and replaced with a kitchen, shower and storage room. A first floor meeting room was also created.

The Project

In 2009 the committee applied for a Premises Licence and it became clear that the building needed upgrading. In 2010 an Energy Audit was undertaken. Funding from the Big Lottery enabled 2030 Architects to complete a Feasibility Study. Extensive community consultation took place and plans for the refurbishment programme were developed.

What has been achieved?

Work has been undertaken in phases to enable funding to be obtained and improvements made to a realistic timeframe.

Local suppliers have been contracted to undertake specialist work, while members of the community have worked together to re-board, plaster and paint the building.

Structural alterations have been completed to provide a separate entrance to the first floor, kitchen, toilets and showers. Different groups can now use the main hall and the upper room at the same time. The upper room provides attractive low cost accommodation for cyclists as they travel the Coast to Coast route. This will help to increase the hall's income as well as improving facilities for local people.

The hall has been re-roofed, and various energy efficiency measures installed including: double glazing and insulation. The building is now attractive, warm, appealing and comfortable to use.

Plans are in place to update the heating system and install Solar Panels which will reduce CO2 emissions and enable the hall to generate electricity for its own use. An income will also be obtained through the government 'feed in tariff'.





Refurbished Kitchen



Play Area

The Learning

Undertaking the Feasibility Study has meant that the project has been well planned and reflects the needs and interests of the whole community.

Improving the first floor meeting room to increase usage by visitors will help to provide a sustainable income for the hall and boost the local economy, as more tourists stay within the area and use local facilities. The committee have ensured that the Charitable Trusts are observed and that local people have access to the hall's facilities.

Completing the work in phases has meant that funding targets have been achievable. A small group of volunteers has spent a considerable amount of time applying to various funders including: CWMET; Hadfield Trust; Francis Scott Trust; RDPE; Cooperative Trust; Cumbria Community Foundation; Alston Moor Partnership; Cumbria County Council; Eden Village Hall Fund; Cumberland Building Society; and the Rural Infrastructure Fund. Local businesses also made donations.

One of the larger funding applications was reviewed by ACT, and the group felt that having objective feedback helped to clarify and refine the application. The timing of the

funding has been crucial. To enable the Trustees to secure a short term overdraft they had to negotiate with their bank and update their governing document.

Substantial funding of approximately £30,000 has been raised through community events such as the annual carnival, firework displays and craft fair. Because the community has been actively engaged in the process volunteers have come forward to help with practical tasks during the refurbishment. This has helped to strengthen friendships and build the sense of community as people want to help and enjoy being involved.

The group were committed to using local contractors. Because of their local knowledge and understanding of the committee's aims, the craftsmen worked closely with the group to minimise costs and to find solutions to unexpected problems. Suppliers also provided discounts.

Contact Details

For more information, please contact:

Janette Thorley, Garrigill Village Hall
Secretary on Tel: 01434382140 or
Email: janettethorley@yahoo.com

ACT champions community and rural issues

ACTion with Communities in Cumbria, Offices O-Q Skirsgill Business Park, Penrith, Cumbria CA11 0FA
T: 01228 817224 | www.cumbriaaction.org.uk | info@cumbriaaction.org.uk | Follow us @ACTCumbria
Registered in England as Voluntary Action Cumbria | Charity Registration Number 1080875 | Company Number 3957858

©ACT 2012. This publication may be reproduced free of charge in any format or medium provided that it is reproduced accurately and not used in a misleading context. The material must be acknowledged as ACTion with Communities in Cumbria copyright and the title of the publication specified.