

A real community transformation

The community of Craven Arms in Shropshire has, in recent years, seen real transformation of the appearance and quality of services in and around the town as a result of a number of key investments.

The Craven Arms Town Centre project on the former auction yard has added fresh impetus to the town since it was completed in 2007 and the momentum has been continued with two new facilities providing services to the community.

Funded through the Multi-Use Facility (MUF) Programme, two separate but complimentary schemes have collaborated to receive Rural Regeneration Zone funding worth £750,000.

The first to be completed was the extension of the Shropshire Hills Discovery Centre which reopened in August 2008.

The Discovery Centre was extended to include a craft and activity workshop for use by visiting artists, clubs and schools.

This was followed in February 2009 by the completion of the nearby refurbished Craven Arms Community Centre.

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The transformation of the centre, built in 1996, has seen the creation of a community cafe, kitchen training facilities, meeting rooms and offices as well as a revamped entrance and gallery space.

The building, which was previously restricted and unable to respond to community needs, is now able to accommodate a wide-range of services and activities, allowing the centre to reach its full potential.

The Craven Arms projects are part of a series of multi-use facilities being supported across the Zone aimed at improving access to services and facilities.

Support for the two schemes was also provided by the European Regional Development Fund and Shropshire Council.

Tina Healy, Manager of Craven Arms Community Centre, said: “We’re absolutely delighted with the results of the work as it has improved hugely the opportunities for people here in Craven Arms.

“The new set-up has increased the quality of training provision we are able to offer and means we can also cater for more people.”

PROJECT Craven Arms Multi-Use Facilities
SUPPORTED THROUGH Rural Regeneration Zone Multi-Use Facilities Programme
FUNDING RECEIVED £750,000



Craven Arms Community Centre Manager Tina Healy and Matt Smith, RRZ Partnerships Manager. (Inset) Shropshire Hills Discovery Centre.

CONTACT

Craven Arms Community Centre, Newington Way
 Craven Arms, Shropshire SY7 9PS
 Tel: 01588 672847 www.cravenarmscomcen.org
 Shropshire Hills Discovery Centre, School Road
 Craven Arms, Shropshire SY7 9RS
 Tel: 0345 678 9024 www.shropshirehillsdiscoverycentre.co.uk

