

Putting the bite back in the Fox and Hounds



PROJECT
 Fox and Hounds
SUPPORTED THROUGH
 Redundant Building Grant Scheme
FUNDING RECEIVED
 £62,000

Jeff Blundell and Nigel Lee, owners of the Fox and Hounds in Shawbury.

A dilapidated Shropshire building has been transformed into one of the West Midlands' finest 'gastro pub' as part of a £1 million investment supported by the Redundant Building Grant scheme.

The Fox and Hounds in Shawbury opened its doors for the first time in early 2009.

Local entrepreneurs Jeff Blundell and Nigel Lee have invested more than £1m into transforming the dilapidated building into one of the West Midlands' finest 'gastro pubs', employing nearly 30 people in the process.

Helped by a £62,000 Redundant Building Grant, the duo have completely stripped out the 1970's building to create a 'rustic' haven for people looking to sample cask ales or for diners enjoying high quality home-made food at reasonable prices.

Jeff said: "The Fox and Hounds had been empty since 2002 and, following a failed attempt by Gallier Homes to turn it into an exclusive residential development, was literally falling into a state of disrepair and a magnet for anti-social behaviour.

"I had spotted it a few times driving past and always thought to myself what great potential it had so when the 'For Sale' sign went up I approached business acquaintance and friend Nigel Lee to look at plans to buy the land and transform it into a new venue.

"We both have extensive experience in the licensing trade and in construction so it seemed a natural fit and, when the Council approved our idea for restoring the pub to its former glory and beyond, we formed L&B Inns to take the project forward."

Construction work saw the interior fittings completely ripped out and replaced with oak flooring, open fires,

a new oak bar and more than 350 limited edition prints and antique pictures.

The external appearance received an equally impressive makeover, with a rendered finish for the front of the building, a new roof and vast garden area, which will provide alfresco dining in the warmer summer months.

There have also been four extensions to the existing premises, ranging from a new porch entrance and disabled facilities to extending the eating areas and kitchen.

Rural Regeneration Zone's Ian Edwards said: "Jeff and Nigel have invested huge sums of money into the project and, with the right external support, they have delivered a business rich in potential that has already created employment opportunities for 30 people."

“ I had spotted it a few times driving past and always thought to myself what great potential it had ”



CONTACT

The Fox and Hounds, Wytheford Road
 Shawbury, Shropshire SY4 4JG
 Tel: 01939 250600
www.foxandhoundsshawbury.co.uk

