

Com.Café project profile

introduction

Groundwork Thames Valley, in partnership with London Borough of Hillingdon (LBH), established the Com.Café as part of a wider strategy for improvements on the Glebe Estate, West Drayton.

Derelict shops were transformed into a multi-use community café, providing a safe & pleasant meeting place, internet facility and a host of much needed services, bringing all generations together socially. The mix of users and ages provides a centre point of interaction for the community.

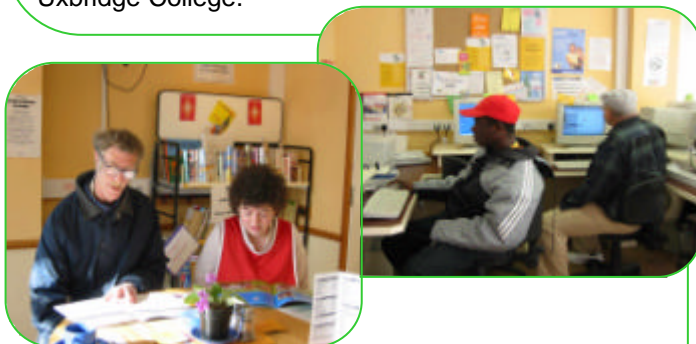
The Hayes and West Drayton SRB Partnership contributed capital funding and revenue. Main partners now include Hillingdon Homes, Healthy Hillingdon, LBH Education, Hillingdon Primary Care Trust and Uxbridge College.



project

After community consultation Groundwork lead the process of bringing two derelict properties back into use as a multi-function café. Providing access to skills, advice, healthy eating & a social facility. The long term aim is for the Com.Café to be fully independent & run by local people.

The Com.Café focuses on community health in it's widest sense - physical, social and environmental, for all the community. It is a vibrant place where all ages can come together and interact.



services provided

Services at the café are continually evolving, from IT classes, advice, health advice, support for lone parents to teas for the elderly. There is also a lending library of books and games.

One of these successful projects focuses on delivering IT education to young people excluded from school. The project provides one-to-one support & develops social skills.

Local volunteer involvement is vital to the Com.Café's success & long term growth. Several volunteers have gone on to gain full time employment with skills developed at the café.

The Com.Café has been highlighted by Hillingdon Homes as an example of best practice in the borough.

Before & After



quotes

Terry Naughton, long term volunteer at the Com.Café said, *"I have really enjoyed my time at the café, it has been a very worthwhile experience. I believe the Café provides the local community with an extremely valuable centre."*

Paolino Dikuiza, member aged 16 commented, *"It's nice and mellow, you can just do your work here. The people are nice and the food is good."*