



case study

equal opportunities



Objective One is part-financed by the European Union



The Objective One Partnership for Cornwall & the Isles of Scilly

FALMOUTH HERS

Falmouth Heritage Economic Regeneration Scheme

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the project

This is a partnership project between Carrick District Council, English Heritage, SRB and the Objective One Programme aimed at encouraging investment in Falmouth town centre through the conservation of the historic environment.

The Programme has invested £357,350 from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) in the project which has a total cost of £931,469.

The design of this project has improved equality of access to Falmouth Town Centre. It has done this by providing grants to improve not only buildings and shop fronts but also by carrying out work to improve access and public safety through the Opeways.



Ope Bell's Court BEFORE



Ope Bell's Court AFTER

measures of equal opportunities adopted

Many of the opeways between the residential areas of Falmouth and the town centre had become no-go areas. Surfaces were poor; they were overgrown and litter-strewn. Redevelopment has included tactile paving, non slip surfaces, hand rails and strategically placed seating which has helped to make the town centre more accessible to residents and visitors alike.

- Improved access to shops and businesses has been achieved with project investment and where possible steps have been removed and replaced with ramps.
- Level access created to a restaurant and the rear entrance to the Art Gallery.
- Improved lighting in the town centre and in the opeways has increased the perceptions of safe and secure areas.
- Local artists and stone masons have been commissioned and given the opportunity to display their work in the form of decorated safety barriers at the bottom of the opeways.

An equal opportunities policy was developed for the project and all contractors were expected to have their own strategies and adhere to the principles of equal opportunities.

benefits of equal opportunities

Alyson Cooper the Project Manager said she felt that the quality project to regenerate and develop Falmouth has benefited by implementing equal opportunities principles. She said "By improving accessibility for people with disabilities we have also improved access for families with children and elderly people. All this helps promote the town and helps encourage visitors. Grants for repairs to the buildings have been open to all. They have not been means tested but have been totally dependant on the building project fulfilling the criteria."

lessons learnt

The project team felt that it was important to talk to others with experience. Public groups such as the Civic Society, disabled pressure groups such as PANIC and the police have all provided advice. SHOPMOBILITY have secured additional funding as a direct result of the improvements to shop access. The economic benefit of this scheme will be felt by local businesses as all sections of the community will have enhanced access to the town centre and their premises.

For more information about how you can incorporate equal opportunities into your project please contact the Objective One Partnership Office on 01872 241379 or email objectiveone@cornwall.gov.uk.