



## case study

## equal opportunities



Objective One is part-financed by the European Union



The Objective One Partnership for Cornwall & the Isles of Scilly

### FISTRAL BEACH

Restormel Borough Council

Telephone: 01726 223300

#### **the project**

To create a Surf / Training Centre to include a restaurant, shops, crèche, surf museum, café and showers / toilet facilities.

The project has seen a range of high quality facilities built with the involvement of Restormel Borough Council, surfing organisations, education bodies and private business joining forces to enhance the already high reputation which Fistral has among surfers and other beach users. A high profile scheme which acts as a prime example of how Cornwall's private sector can work alongside the public sector to develop a project with major benefits for all involved.

The Programme has invested £584,134 from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) in the project which has a total cost of £1,508,132.

#### **measures of equal opportunities adopted**

The facilities on Fistral beach have been designed and built to be fully accessible by all people of all abilities and ages. It includes lifts to storeys above ground floor and specially designed ramped areas to the lower parts, the beach and boardwalk. These measures also mean that families with children in buggies are able to access all areas. A fairly recent but well used addition is the specially adapted wheelchair which can be taken on to the beach for a small charge. The use of colour contrast assists visually impaired users. A crèche has been included within the Centre for both employees working within the Fistral beach complex and people visiting the beach. All businesses within the centre have family friendly policies and the crèche has helped women return to work who may not otherwise have been able to.

Family friendly shower facilities are provided with a separate designated area for children under the age of seven.

Specially positioned designated disabled parking to fully view the beach from the car park is available, which also enables access to the boardwalk and viewing balcony.

The development has also improved links with the existing coast path, thus improving the access to the headland.



The project was built by a Cornish builder providing jobs for local people and equal opportunities policies were developed right through the chain for the development. Work to improve the mobile phone signal in the area will further help to ensure a safe and secure environment for workers and visitors.

#### **benefits of equal opportunities**

The introduction of the crèche will remove some of barriers that can hold back parents from accessing employment. Fistral is now seen as a safe and secure beach well used by surfers and families alike. The previous image of a very run down dilapidated area has gone. Parents say that they are happy to allow their children some freedom on the beach.

Dave, a wheelchair user, was on holiday with his family and making use of the adapted wheelchair. He told me that for the first time in 20 years he was able to feel the sand on his feet and it was the first time he had ever been able to sit on the beach with his family. "It's great," he said. "Why aren't other beaches doing this?"

#### **lessons learnt**

Nick Briant of Britanic Industries, which manages Fistral said, "We want to capitalise on the value of attracting

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*top surfing competitions to the town while offering year-round facilities for visitors wanting to make the most of Newquay's superb beaches."*

Andrew Tremaine, Head of Financial Services at Restormel Borough Council said, "We created 57 new jobs as a result of this project, increased the number of events held at Fistral and therefore increased the spend in Newquay. Rip Curl for example has increased the requirement for B&B accommodation."

There are now women only competitions and surfing training specifically for women and for children. Andrew also said that working with the developer they became more aware of the difficulties and challenges people with disabilities have.

Angie Rowe, Economic Development Officer from Restormel said: "As a grandmother I can take my grandchildren to the beach and know that now they will be safe. I certainly could not have said that a few years ago."

Key message from Restormel Borough Council: "Equal opportunities best practice shouldn't be seen as a bolt on. It's not just disabled access that matters. In our community we have different cultures and a diverse range of people to cater for. By helping people with disabilities we are helping everyone."

**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](mailto:objectiveone@cornwall.gov.uk).**



*A specially adapted beach wheelchair is available for hire*