

Introducing sustainability at Hemyock Football Club

Club background

Hemyock Football Club was established in 1938 and is affiliated to the Devon County Football Association. The facilities at the grounds consist of a full size pitch, a junior pitch and grass training area, a full size multi-use games area (MUGA), and three tennis courts.

The pavilion at Hemyock has been designed with environmental sustainability in mind. It covers 250 square metres and comprises:

- Four changing rooms with shower facilities for 16 people.
- Two changing rooms with shower facilities for 4/6 people.
- Disabled toilet with shower and changing facilities.
- Public toilets, with access from both inside and out.
- Separate training/meeting room.
- Entrance lobby, social area and server.

The grounds are owned by Hemyock Parish Council and are located on low lying ground close to the River Culm.

The sustainability project

When Hemyock Football Club constructed its pavilion, the decision was taken to pursue green technology in order to reduce carbon emissions and energy costs as far as possible. Sustainability was therefore considered from the design stage, and planning permission for the project was granted on the basis of environmental sustainability.

The pavilion design was developed carefully to create an uncomplicated, easily operable building founded on basic sustainability principles. It therefore looked to minimise the future maintenance and energy costs, and to enable the community to use minimal resources to sustain the facility. The sustainability features in the design include:



- A bore hole and ground source heat pump to provide underfloor heating and a hot water supply.
- A building design and window orientation that maximise the available benefit from the heat of the sun.
- Sustainable timber cladding on the outside of the building.
- A green roof, which protects the structure and provides additional insulation to the building.
- Two banks of solar panels which provide electricity to the club house.

Project costs and savings

The project is expected to achieve a reduction in the club's electricity costs of at least 60% per annum across its lifetime.

Hemyock Football Club financed its project as part of the overall pavilion construction funded by Hemyock Parish Council and the Football Foundation. The costs associated with the sustainability aspects of the project were as follows:

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| Bore Hole | £5,500 |
| Electrical Supply | £1,863 |
| Heat Pump | £5,700 |
| Timber Cladding | £1,780 |
| Solar Panels | £7,035 |
| Green Roof | <u>£7,200</u> |
| Total | £29,078 |

The cost savings achieved to date have allowed Hemyock Football Club to focus on making dramatic improvements to its football pitches through the application of fertiliser, weed killing and drainage.

Lessons learnt

The key lesson learnt from this project is that background research is essential to a successful outcome. As a result of the prior research undertaken, the club was able to select a solution for which maintenance costs to date have been minimal. The largest on-going cost incurred is the maintenance of the green roof which requires weeding and pruning and usually costs approximately £250 each year.