



CASE STUDY

Rhymney Hub Library ~ Caerphilly County Borough Council

Introduction

FG Library & Learning embarked on a comprehensive transformation journey aimed at modernising the library infrastructure in the new Rhymney Hub Library.

Caerphilly County Borough Council awarded FG Library & Learning the project after a successful tender process. They were looking to reimagine and reconstruct Rhymney Hub Library and the designs by FG Library & Learning fitted the brief perfectly.

Challenges

Rhymney is a community with significant socio-economic challenges and sought to revitalise its library to help address issues such as high unemployment, digital exclusion, low educational attainment, and poor health and wellbeing.

The redesign process focused on providing spaces for events, activities, quiet study, group work, and children's engagement.



Objectives

- Create private office spaces, enabling people to connect virtually or physically with council officers and external partners.
- Introduce agile working spaces so council officers can operate closer to the community., reducing the need for travel and contributing to climate change mitigation efforts.
- To modernise the space and add a new accessible children's library on the ground floor.
- Incorporate space where visitors can have free tea or coffee.



The Solution

- Flexible furniture was introduced to allow for multi-use spaces and configuration for events or meetings.
- Sleek, plug in device points were installed for charging phones and laptops.
- A lovely tree feature was built to highlight where the children's library is located and is visible from the front entrance.
- Bilingual shelving signage and wayfinding graphics were placed around the library to help improve the experience of visitors.
- Landscape shelving was fitted with three-way display shelves, providing versatile and agile display options.
- A purpose-built community learning hub and training space. This included a state-of-the-art training suite, equipped with DDA compliant peripherals, facilitating inclusive access for all residents.
- The library's office and meeting spaces were upgraded to provide modern, vibrant, facilities. This created an environment conducive to collaboration, community engagement, and problem-solving.





Flexible furniture allowing for multi-use spaces





Plug in device points for charging





Tree feature as a signpost to the children's library



Who made the mineowner?
Say the black bells of Rhondda.
And who robbed the miner?
Cry the grim bells of Blaina.

Dewis Sydyn
Quick Choice

Cyfeiriol
Reference



Bilingual shelving signage & way finding graphics





Landscape shelving fitted with three-way display shelves



Delivery, Installation & Project Management

The library itself underwent a massive transformation, becoming a modern and vibrant space.

The inclusion of a contemporary book lending area aimed to reignite the love for reading and provide a socially enriching experience for those who had been shielding during challenging times.

In Summary

The Rhymney Hub Library transformation yielded multifaceted benefits for the community and the client was extremely pleased with the results.

Rhymney Hub Library is now an optimised space with the highest quality library furniture which no doubt empowers all of its users.

Furthermore, the project contributed to environmental sustainability by promoting agile working practices, reducing unnecessary travel, and minimising the carbon footprint associated with commuting.

Beyond the increase in visitors to Rhymney Hub Library, the project has sparked positive social change, fostering education, employment opportunities, and community engagement.

The success of this endeavour underscores the transformative potential of well-designed library spaces in addressing the diverse needs of vulnerable communities.



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