

St. GABRIEL'S HALL REFURBISHMENT

APPLICANT

St. Gabriel's Hall Management Committee

TOTAL PROJECT COST

£273,574.00

£89,684

£183,890

Tyne Esk LEADER

Match Funding

PROJECT AIMS

- Redevelop St Gabriel's Parish Community Hall into a modern fully accessible community hall.
- Increase community use of the hall, particularly for local organisations.
- Improve the outside aesthetic of the hall to make it a more welcoming venue.
- Install solar panels to make the venue more environmentally friendly and reduce ongoing costs.
- Install a catering quality kitchen and audio equipment to make the venue more attractive for larger events

PROJECT DETAIL

St Gabriel's Hall, built in 1932 in Prestonpans, was in a state of disrepair. Accessibility was poor with steep imposing steps to the main entrance and it did not meet the needs of those who used it. With the help of a LEADER grant, the hall underwent total renovation which has improved access for wheelchairs, prams/buggies as well as improvements to toilets and kitchen facilities and the installation of a sound system.

The hall will be for the whole community to use. With its improved facilities, the hall will be able to accommodate a wider range of events than are currently on offer in Prestonpans. In particular, the multimedia installation which, with new technology, will enable the hall to be used for innovative events including film, conference facilities and a wedding venue. It will also be possible for social enterprises to use the hall which will have a positive effect on the area, as well as contributing to the local economy.



Photos ©St. Gabriel's Parish

RESULTS

"We now have a new welcoming entrance which gives wheelchair access into foyer. The outer pathway and railings will be a big help to the elderly or inform. We now have a new floor in the hall, dancers will appreciate this and it is now all completely double glazed windows in place. This will now be a great resource for the parish and wider community groups to come and use on a regular basis and feel welcome and own it."

LESSONS LEARNED

"What I've most certainly picked up in this experience is: allow far more time than you would dare as it's amazing what eats into the timescale for the job: holidays, sickness snags, weather; and smaller firms I now understand... do not stop all their other jobs for yours. They will have other contracts to fulfil and you could find yourself at the back of the queue.

Another major issue which is connected to the time scale issue is: trying to get all the different trades to dovetail their work either alongside or after one another. It is a job demanding a lot of energy and time; but at completion when you look back, all worth it."