

Community building case studies

Secondary glazing

1

Roll for the Soul, a community bike café and workshop space, were able to install secondary glazing on many of their draughty window units.

Polycarbonate sheets were used on all first floor windows, where the community workshop space is housed. The sheets were ordered to size and so the windows had to be measured very carefully. The installation was done in-house, with wooden frames built to hold the panels in the recesses.

According to Rob Wall, one of Roll for the Soul's directors, the installations have definitely made the workshop more comfortable – it was virtually unusable as a public space during the previous winter because of the cold temperatures.

The building does not have a gas supply and so is heated electrically, which was unaffordable whilst the building was leaking so much warmth. Installing

the secondary glazing has proved worthwhile; the winter after the installation was even colder than the previous year, and although there has not been a noticeable change in heating bills, it's clear that much more of the heat is being retained.



A polycarbonate sheet (4mm thickness) insulating a first floor window

Some wall insulation and draught proofing was also installed



Glass frontage of the Roll for the Soul café space.

2

The Zion Community Arts Space were keen to make energy efficiency improvements to the building. They chose to install secondary glazing on the north facing windows in the main hall and noticed an instant improvement in warmth and comfort.

Jess Wright, who runs the centre, commented that:

“The panels look surprisingly in keeping with the building, not too obvious and even make it look a bit smarter!”

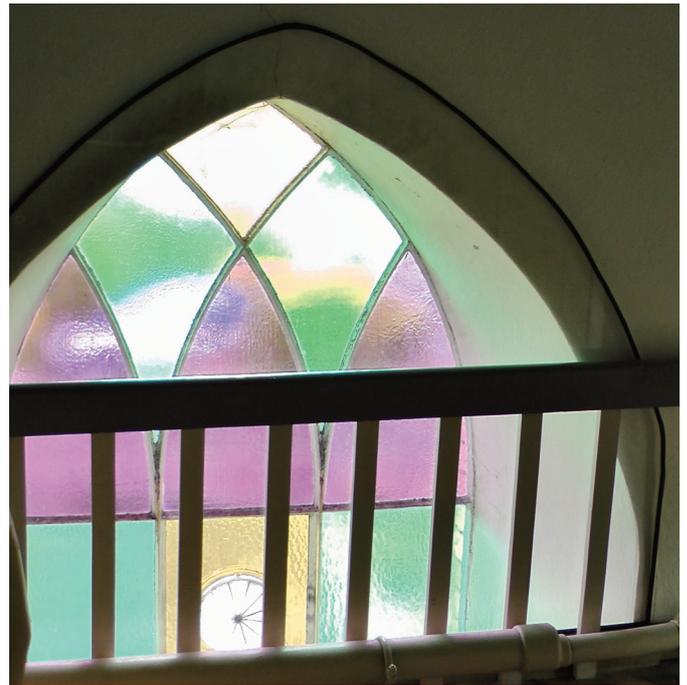
She also emphasised that the installation was manageable, as although it took place whilst the building was open, the installers were considerate of other users.

The Zion Centre is a community café and creative event space in Bedminster Down, Bristol. It hosts a range of activities, including night time food markets, quiz nights, and children’s activities. The running team aim to create a safe environment for all ages to use and to bring the Zion church back as a community focus. The centre is open throughout the week and is also available to hire for events.

The centre also installed a tensile fabric ceiling in the church hall. This, in effect, lowered the ceiling and prevents heat being lost to the high roof, making the



Sheets of plastic have been fixed to the inside frames of the windows



The insulating plastic sheets were cut to fit the awkwardly shaped stained glass windows

hall easier to heat. Together, these measures allow warmth to be enjoyed throughout the building and have reduced the use of air-to-air heaters (heat pumps) during the winter.

The Bristol Community Building Fund ran in 2014 and provided grants of up to £4,000 to community buildings across the city. For more details go to www.cse.org.uk/bcbf or contact communities@cse.org.uk.



A factsheet on secondary glazing can be downloaded from www.cse.org.uk/secondary-glazing



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