

## Workshop

Last Updated Friday, 17 November 2017

In 2016 Public

Health England approved a grant of £355,000 to refurbish and improve our flats and Workshop in Sandown. The announcement of the grant followed a joint bid from the Isle of Wight NHS Trust, the Isle of Wight Council and the Real World Trust.

In December, in partnership and supported by the Isle of Wight Council (Public Health) and the Island Recovery Integrated Service (IRIS - part of the Isle of Wight NHS Trust) was submitted a bid to Public Health England.

The grant will allow the purchase of the site at Sandown, together with improving the existing accommodation.

The Workshop will continue to provide a recovery hub for agencies to deliver services tailored to the need of individuals in recovery from substance abuse, including employment workshops and family support workshops.

As part of the project, Community Action Isle of Wight will be invited to help identify opportunities for clients of the facility, and the Isle of Wight College to organise skills based training.

Isle of Wight Council Executive member with responsibility for public health, Councillor Phil Jordan, said: "This is excellent news for this facility and it will provide a stable base for the Real World Trust to continue this important and highly-valued residential community service.

"It also demonstrates the value of the strong partnership links involving both public and third sector organisations in delivering vital services for those dealing with drug and alcohol issues.

"I would like to congratulate all those who put so much towards preparing and submitting this important bid to Public Health England."

## UPDATE ON BUILDING WORKS - MAY 2016

The property was finally purchased in December 2015 following a long negotiation with the former owners. In the end

The Real World Trust had put £27,000 of its own reserves to meet the difference between the agreed price and the amount set aside in the grant.

In March 2016 a contract price for the rebuild of the Workshop had been agreed with SJT Construction following a competitive tender, and they took possession of the site and demolished the old Workshop and the garage attached to the flats. The site of the garage will form the new Workshop access.

Early in April 2016 the frame for the new Workshop was delivered into the driveway.

and by the end of the same day, the walls had been raised on top of the prepared concrete foundation.

By the end of the week the framework for the roof had been added.



## COMPLETION

The building works were completed at the start of July 2016 and the new building officially opened on 29th July by Rita Harman MBE - Patron of the Trust, and Dr Robert (Bob) Keats, outgoing chairman and probably the person most to be thanked for securing the purchase and funding of the Fitzroy Street site.

### Volunteers

from the residents and staff of the Real World Trust then completed the decorating work, put together the furniture and began again to use the building.

### Over

the first year the premises has enabled two new Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) groups and a DAA (Drug Addicts Anonymous) group to meet there and this provided a much-welcomed location in Sandown for these groups. There has also been use by art and nature therapy groups, in addition to the reinstated weekly drop-in support for present (and former) clients and staff or Board meetings.

### The

building - as with all RWT premises - is a safe "abstention environment" in relation to alcohol or other non-prescribed substances.