



» **FAST FORWARD**
YOUR SOCIAL ENTERPRISE

CASE STUDY

WORKING WITH
DEVELOPMENT IN
SOCIAL ENTERPRISE

Business Support
Sustainability
Consultancy
Social Value
Asset Transfer

KEY FACTS

MISSION

To be locally run, locally owned and locally led, serving the Chelmsley Wood community

SERVICES

A community centre that provides a place to meet informally and formally, where there are clubs and activities for all ages and all interests

BUSINESS CHALLENGE

To raise £650k to renovate Three Trees community centre and secure its long-term sustainability

ESTABLISHED

1970

LEGAL STRUCTURE

Registered Charity and Company Ltd by Guarantee

threetreescentre.org.uk

Three Trees Community Centre



Three Trees Community Centre is transforming into a modern community space for Chelmsley Wood residents. We played a small part towards securing the investment they needed to make it happen.

In urgent need of repair and upgrade, Three Trees Community Centre has been serving Chelmsley Wood residents, young and old, for over four decades.

With a fundraising target of £650k to modernise the building, Development in Social Enterprise (DISE) was commissioned to produce a business plan that would not only determine the viability of various income generation ideas for the centre but also form part of a bid to the Big Lottery for much needed capital investment.

While working with the Church to prepare the funding application, Solihull SUSTAIn identified the need for professional help with business planning:

“We had no hesitation in recommending DISE for the work. The brief included a thorough assessment of several »

“DISE delivered an excellent business plan, directly improving our chances of securing lottery funding for the Three Trees centre.”

Neil Roberts, Reverend Chelmsley Wood Baptist Church



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» business ideas including a community café, managed workspace, venue hire, and a community garden project," says Alan Crawford, Funding Officer, Solihull SUSTAIN.

With the Centre still in use, and momentum for investment gathering pace, the business plan was an urgent piece of work that required completion within a matter of weeks.

"After our initial meeting with DISE, they began to explore our plans in detail, identifying potential problems, making suggestions on how to improve use of the building to maximise income but also advising on ways to reduce our environmental impact," says Neil Roberts, Reverend at Chelmsley Wood Baptist Church.

"We were kept informed of progress and regularly sent updates to comment on, always on time, knowing that keeping to schedule was really important to us," adds Neil.

The depth of social enterprise knowledge and experience that DISE brings is rare and carries tremendous weight in shaping our thinking and how we make our hopes a reality for the Three Trees."

With the business plan complete, Alan and Neil were able to improve the quality of the funding proposal and move one step closer towards developing Three Trees as a local community enterprise, offering a range of high quality services and facilities for many future generations to come. ■



Development in Social Enterprise CIC

provide bespoke business support and consultancy services for social enterprises, charities, voluntary organisations and start-ups.

Our mission is simple.

Do Good Business and Create Social Value

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YOUR SOCIAL ENTERPRISE

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