



SOUTH YORKSHIRE

Unpaid Work *In Doncaster*



Bentley Pavilion



Before

Bentley Pavilion in Doncaster is a local authority-owned community facility which is available as a venue for civic events and a range of community services. In recent years, the building's condition has deteriorated through lack of maintenance.

In early 2006, contact was made between Bentley Unpaid Work Unit and Andy Woodhall (Bentley Neighbourhood Manager at Doncaster MBC). Discussions on how offenders on Unpaid Work Orders could help restore the pavilion to its former glory began and agreement was reached that the project would meet the following criteria:

- The work would benefit the local community;
- Offenders working on the project would have the opportunity to learn building and painting skills;
- The site would provide a dry, safe working environment suitable throughout the winter months.

Work began in September 2006 and is scheduled to last until next spring.

During

Supervisor John Aimson is currently working at Bentley Pavilion with teams of up to six offenders.

Some preparation and re-plastering work has been done but most of the work will be painting and decorating, carried out to an appropriately high standard.

In order to repaint the high ceilings, the team are erecting and using scaffolding supplied at low-cost by the Probation Service.



Facts & Figures

In the two months since the project began, the community punishment team has worked 42 days completing more than 1,000 individual hours of work. The total cost will be just £1,500 to £2,000, a saving to the community of more than £8,000.

After

Once completed, the Neighbourhood Manager plans to re-launch the Pavilion as a venue for weddings and other civic events that will generate revenue which can be put back into the Pavilion and other local amenities in the Bentley area.



The work of the Probation Service at Bentley Pavilion received the endorsement of local constituency MP Ed Miliband. He chatted with Supervisor John Aimson and offenders, Colin and Craig, on a November visit to the site during Inside Justice Week 2006.

Said Mr Miliband: "It was great to get involved and see the positive effects the work is having on our community in restoring this historic building. Better education and skills training with a strong focus on finding work are key steps towards reducing re-offending. I hope the Probation Service continue to work with organisations in the community."

Said Scott Murdoch of Bentley Unpaid Work Unit: "Bentley Pavilion is just one of the many community facilities, groups and non-profit making organisations that is benefiting from working in partnership with the Probation Service. In total, over 35,000 hours of court-ordered unpaid work is completed every year in the Doncaster area by offenders on community (non-custodial) sentences."

What do the beneficiaries think?



Andy Woodhall (Bentley Neighbourhood Manager) says:

"The work of the Probation Service at Bentley Pavilion is making a significant impact in enhancing this community facility.

"Without their support, I would have had to use money from my budget here at the Pavilion that can now go towards improving playground facilities and other public amenities for people in Bentley."

