

Dulais Opportunity for Voluntary Enterprise - DOVE



VIEW (DOVE) Ltd is a company limited by guarantee and a registered charity within the voluntary sector located in the Upper Dulais valley community of Banwen. The Workshop was established during the Miner's Strike 1984 - 85 by a group of women from the Miners' Support Group in the Dulais Valley. The role of the Dove Workshop is to identify and support adults in the community seeking education, training and advice on business start-up.

The Workshop established a Social Enterprise in 1989 to further develop the child care provision, offer office services and more recently a community café and catering service. DOVE is part of the Cwmdulais Uchaf Communities First partnership.

The Workshop provides part-time, flexible, formal and informal learning opportunities at all levels of study up to degree level. Long-standing partnerships exist between DOVE and local universities and colleges.

In recent years, the team at DOVE have become increasingly engaged in environmental and sustainable development issues.

Sarn Helen Community Garden

In 2007 DOVE Workshop was awarded just under £250,000 by BIG Lottery to revive disused allotments that were owned by Onllwyn Community Council and turn them into a community market garden.

The purpose of the garden is three fold: to produce fresh affordable produce for the community: to promote environmental awareness by practicing green growing methods and provide a site for recycling garden and food waste, turning it into compost for use in the garden: and as a facility to offer informal learning opportunities for all ages to participate in.

The project is now in the third and final year of BIG Lottery funding and has so far achieved the following:

- The food co-operative provides the community with salad, fruit and vegetables.
- Produce, flowers and garden supplies are sold from the garden.
- The garden supports two full time jobs
- Engagement of 158 volunteers including horticulture students
- Partnership with local schools offering advice and visits
- An arrangement with a local comprehensive school to provide flexible curriculum activities.

The project received funding and support from Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council, Environment Wales and the Coalfields Regeneration Trust to construct the garden. As you can see from the photograph, there was a lot of hard manual work involved in the construction. The challenge for the future is to create a

financial and environmentally sustainable resource that will be owned by the community.

For more information contact:

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