

Case Study

Leisure



Fox & Hounds Pub, Denmead

Facts about the project

Fox & Hounds Pub, Denmead, Hampshire

Consultant in Workplace Acoustics: Rob Stark

Project size: 30m²

Products: Ecophon Focus™ B



The On 6th December 2014, the Fox and Hounds pub re-opened – and all thanks to people power in the Hampshire village of Denmead.

When the pub was closed back in 2012, it came under threat of demolition and redevelopment for housing but thanks to a community campaign led by Rob Stark, pints are being pulled in the Fox and Hounds once again.

Rob continues the story: “A two and a half year campaign by locals to form a co-operative, raise the necessary funds, buy, refurbish and re-open the pub has become quite a famous story in local and national political circles and we used a new law called the “Localism Act” to help us.”

Denmead villagers persuaded Winchester City Council that it was a community asset and planning permission was refused. The co-operative that was formed then went on to raise £450,000 to buy the pub. But there would still be work to do.

“When we eventually opened the doors it was one of my fears that the low plastered ceilings, hard floors and walls would contribute to a highly reverberant environment which, when the pub was open and full on a Friday and Saturday, proved to be the case,” explained Rob.

“Noise levels were so high that the Lombard effect kicked in creating a very uncomfortable environment in which speech intelligibility was severely affected. Hence why I contacted Ecophon to see whether they could help us.”

Rob is a workplace consultant specialising in acoustics, so he knew exactly which Ecophon products could help solve the acoustic issues in the newly resurrected Fox and Hounds.

“I have specified Ecophon on many projects over the years, so know which products to specify, and how to apply them to a noisy environment. I also know they work and deliver required levels of acoustic absorption.”

Due to the pub’s low ceilings a solution was needed that didn’t encroach on the space but which delivered very high sound absorption. The pub is a fusion of old and modern, so a design that blended in well was required.

“Like all retrospective acoustic treatments, it is important that the solution provides an either supportive or neutral aspect to the integral design of the existing interior which is a constant consideration when specifying retrospective acoustic solutions to interiors.”

Rob explained why Focus B adhesive direct fix tiles were the preferred solution: "The Focus B panels adhere easily and directly to the plasterboard ceiling. When fitted in blocks surrounded by the white rail edge, they blend into the overall design nicely and protrude only 18mm to deliver a high level of absorption without encroaching on the space. The resulting appearance contributes to the overall theme and the panels are either not noticed (which is good) or commented on as very nice (which is better!)"

Rob and Ecophon's Regional Sales Manager, Sharon Baker, have a long-standing working relationship, so she was pleased for her team to be able to help out on this community project.

Rob added: "The Ecophon technical team also advised and sent us installation instructions. Ecophon are the most professional team I work with and are always ready to help identify a solution. Ecophon manufacture a unique product range that actually performs exceptionally well acoustically. The range is diverse enough to be able to meet design briefs."

He also said: "The villagers of Denmead are thankful for Ecophon's contribution to the success of this project. Thank you."

You can read all about the project at:

<http://foxandhounds-pub.co.uk/>

For more information please contact:

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