



Family Centre

Our Ground Source Heat Pump – March 2011



As I write our fabulous new building is being finished off in time for us all to move in during April 2011. Planning for this started way back in 2008 when it became obvious that our existing building, shown above, would not be large enough to offer all the services we would like to. So with support from Advantage West Midlands and Herefordshire Council we were able to secure the funding to develop a new 900m² centre. Being so large we started to explore how we could heat it without it costing us or the environment too much. With help from various advisors we finally settled on the option of ground source heating. We had also hoped to install Solar Photovoltaics but sadly the cost was prohibitive.



Inside the building we have underfloor heating across most areas which will receive heat via the heat pump. Externally 8 boreholes were drilled over several days and nights during some of the worst weather we experienced during the winter. The heat will be extracted through the bore holes and, as a result of using this technology, we expect to save over 40% of our annual fuel bills. This is very important to us as we are providing services to a community which is among one of the 20% most deprived in the country. We aim to keep our costs as low as possible so that we can keep any charges affordable and make sure that as many people as possible have access to our services. We aim to make the new building a hub of the community. We will have a training kitchen and community cafe where people can meet for a coffee and snacks. We will provide a wide range of leisure and training activities as well as small workshops where individuals can start up small businesses in a familiar and supportive environment. In addition we will offer a range of services including childcare; support for children 0 – 19 years and early intervention activities; meeting and counselling rooms; employment advice and training; health services; speech therapy, homeopathy and support for the farming community.

