

MARKET TOWN AWARDS 2007

MARKET TOWN: **HOWDEN**

PROJECT NAME: **HOWDEN CINEMA**

Partners: **Howdenshire Forward and The Shire Hall Trust**

Category: **Social and Community**

An interest in cinema facilities in Howden was raised by many people in town council questionnaires and open days in 2005 and 2006. The lack of cinema facilities was felt strongly by the elderly and those less able to travel outside of Howden.



In 2006 the Shire Hall Trust applied to The UK Film Council for up to 50% funding to build the cinema facilities. This would involve the installation of a part-time digital cinema for the use and enjoyment of people local to Howden and the surrounding area, and to give reasonably priced access to experience films on the big screen.

Funding was granted in June 2006, and by January 2007 the balance had been raised and work started on the cinema installation. Opening night was held on 10th February,

2007.

At the first showings people commented that they had not been to the cinema in years, either because it was inaccessible, too expensive, too loud or their husbands would not take them.

Whilst still adapting to audience needs and developing the on-going nature of the project, many local groups including arts and heritage groups have expressed interest in using the facilities. Furthermore a community film society is emerging. Although in its very early stages the cinema offers many opportunities for future use by the local community.



The project has been designed to be self-sustainable, with screenings paying for themselves, or those that do not are paid for out of profits. Maintenance will be covered through revenues, internal fund raising, or through charges for hiring out the equipment.

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