



Ian Williams on behalf
of Cardiff City Council:
Llanrumney Hub



ian williams
Looking after Buildings

Project: Llanrumney Hub



Task: Internal redecoration

Products used: Dulux Diamond Matt range

Client: Cardiff City Council

History

Llanrumney is a large suburb in the east of Cardiff and is predominantly composed of large scale social housing. The town has played an important role in the history of the capital and its history dates back to William the Conqueror.

The town is home to the Morgans – a well-known Welsh family. Sir Henry Morgan was born at Llanrumney Hall in 1635 and famously led a naval fleet to capture Panama in 1671. King Charles II subsequently made Henry the Deputy Governor of Jamaica and awarded him a knighthood. Henry named one of his properties in Jamaica after his birthplace and today, in the Saint Mary region in the north of the Caribbean country, resides a town called Llanrumney.





Llanrumney Hub

Llanrumney Hub, originally built in 2008, is a flagship building in the heart of the community. The hub provides a one-stop shop for council services for residents and surrounding areas as well as other facilities including a crèche, library, computer suite with free internet access and rooms that can be hired for parties and meetings.

The project included extensive internal decoration of the building.

Project: Llanrumney Hub



Service to clients

As the main service provider for Cardiff City Council, it was vital we maintained the trust they have with the high quality of our craftsmanship by delivering the project on time and to exceptional standards. The project was initially programmed for six weeks, however within the first week of starting on site the council asked us to complete the works in just four, all whilst it remained open to the public. Despite the challenge, we still managed to complete the task in the four weeks requested by the client.

The building itself is modern and one of the town's most prominent and popular facilities, meaning that expectations were high. The council wanted the redecoration of the hub to positively influence and complement the moods and feelings within different parts of the building. To achieve this we devised a programme using bright colours to stimulate the atmosphere. The project, which had to be delivered within a tight budget, also included alterations to the main building to create a layout that housed all the services better. As well as a painting programme, our work included: moving and putting up new partition walls, creating new doorways and corridors, upgrading the fire system and installing CCTV.

Complexity

Although the project appeared to be straightforward, the residents of Llanrumney depend heavily on the services the hub provides, therefore it was vital it always remained open to the public. Residents not only use the hub as a one-stop shop for council services, but they take part in other daily activities such as reading groups, IT courses and children's events. To guarantee there was as little disruption as possible we made sure we worked closely with staff at the hub, engaging them throughout the project.

Because The Hub had to remain open, safeguarding the well being of the public, staff and our operatives was of utmost importance. To reduce any health and safety risks we dedicated specific responsibilities to our staff on site. Because of the tight timescale, large volume of work to be carried out, and significant number of different trades working on the site at the same time, our contracts manager was given the responsibility of ensuring everything ran smoothly. There were a lot of trades working on site at the same site; including carpenters, electricians, interior fitters, flooring contractors, IT contractors and our painting and decorating operatives. By putting a carefully crafted schedule in place it allowed everyone to get on with their work safely.



Our foreman was given the key task of controlling the scheme. Working closely with our contracts manager, he ensured everyone could transfer from room to room without interfering and getting in each others way. A carefully planned timetable was devised and executed. Precautionary measures were taken to isolate areas of work and clear signs were put up to warn the general public.



Materials used

The finish of the decoration needed to be of the highest quality. This project was complex and unique as the location of each room, and its use needed to be considered when deciding what products and which colours to use to decorate it. We chose Dulux Diamond Matt range because of its high quality, lasting finish and recommendation to use in high impact areas. The paint range has superior durability, they are stain resistant and can be repeatedly wiped clean without damaging the actual finish.

Our client wanted to achieve a positive and happy atmosphere so it was important we chose the right colours. Colours act in three basic ways: active, passive and neutral, so in order to accomplish the right moods we used the expertise of AkzoNobel paint representatives to work with us and hub staff to select appropriate colours for each room depending on its use.

The final result included using multiple bold and bright colours and because the colours were on walls next to each other, it tested our painter's skills and knowledge competency to the maximum level.

Workforce / Apprentices

This size, timescale and complexity of the project required a significant sized team. In total there were 20 tradespeople from both Ian Williams and other sub-contractors involved in the project. Lucas Perrin, a painting and decorating apprentice, and Ben Reece, a trainee surveyor, also formed part of the team.



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