

# Chuffed with new base



**WEST Somerset community transport scheme ATWest showed off its new base at a special open day this week.**

The organisation ended a five year search for a centralised site for its administrative hub and fleet of vehicles when it took over the Acorn site in Brunel Way, Minehead last year.

A £120,000 project to provide a timber panel office building and concrete area for vehicles was completed earlier this year and ATWest moved into the new premises three months ago.

And on Tuesday local dignitaries and representatives of organisations which helped fund the project were given a guided tour of the new facilities.

ATWest funding officer Barbara Middleton said the build-

ing had been designed by local architect Chris Mitchell and constructed by Robert Gregory of Minehead-based Pinocohio.

"We used local contractors and local materials wherever possible and it has been built expressly to incorporate as many energy saving and carbon friendly features as possible," she said.

In addition to money raised by some of ATWest's customers, the organisation also received grants from Local Action for Rural Communities, Future-builders England, the Leonard Laity Stoate Trust and Somerset County Council.

Mrs Middleton said West Somerset Council had also been very supportive in permitting the organisation to lease the land when prospects over secur-

ing a centralised base were bleak and all other possibilities exhausted.

ATWest company manager Brian Worrall said the open day had gone very well and visitors had been impressed with the new facilities.

"It is a lovely building and we are well chuffed with it," he said.

"It helps make us a much more professional outfit."

Pictured at the open day, from left, are Barbara Middleton, Brian Worrall, LARC representative Anne-Marie Spalding, Chris Mitchell, West Somerset councillors Maureen Smith and Ian Melhuish and Andy Elliott from the Alcombe and Minehead Transition Group.

Photo: Steve Guscott