

UCVR as an accountable body

Case study

Communal Gardens



UCVR as an 'accountable body' – Case Study.

Residents of Cockcroft and Wilkinson House in Lydgate have completed a project to create an outside community space, where they can meet and socialise with their neighbours. A bare washing line yard has been transformed aesthetically into a community garden, with planters and seating areas. The immediate feedback from other residents and visitors was, how amazing the project has been in bringing people together who might otherwise have just passed on the entrance path or in the doorway.



The project was a firstly made possible by the initiative of the residents to do something about their external environment. Funding was available from the town council but there was a barrier to the residents being given the funds directly as they were not a constituted group. The UCVR as a community support organisation have the remit to apply for funding on behalf of such groups and did so for this particular resident group.



The process was one of collaboration between councillors and the UCVR to facilitate the project that would otherwise be limited in impact without the resources. In this case the UCVR applied to Todmorden Town for £990 taking a 10% admin fee. The residents bought items and the UCVR paid the bills on receipt of expenses claims.

The output of the project was the transformation of the space into a communal area for socialising and relaxing. The social outcome was one where isolation of residents was eliminated. Seemed like amazing value for the cost.



Above: Cllrs. Any Hollis and Ken White (Mayor) meeting with residents.

Some of the comments from residents and visitors:

Comments: It is really a beautiful communal garden admired and loved by everyone who sees it. Credit must go to those who worked so hard to make it such a lovely garden

Comments: I REALLY APPRECIATE ALL EFFORTS BY MEL & BOB ETC, WHO HAS TRANSFORMED OUR GARDEN AREA. EXCELLENT!

Comments: THE PEGGING OUT AREA HAS BEEN TRANSFORMED INTO BEAUTIFUL GARDENS.
IT'S SUCH A PLEASURE TO LOOK OUT + SIT OUT WITH BLOSSOMING FLOWERS + TALK TO NEIGHBOURS WHO DIDN'T COME OUTDOORS PREVIOUSLY.
MANY THANKS TO ROB + MEL WHO MADE THIS HAPPEN

Comments: THE GARDENS are lovely.
ITS A PLEASURE TO NOW LOOK FROM YOUR WINDOWS
OUT SIDE. THEY ARE VERY DEDICATED PEOPLE
THANKS ALL X

Comments:

It looks beautiful thank-you for all your
hard work.

Comments: This is a great initiative; That the local
council have put some funding into the project
is very encouraging. The place is brighter,
happier. Its a place where local residents
now can meet up and stop for a chat.

It was a miserable place before the Continued:
project started. Overgrown bushes and litter

Comments:

It is brilliant to look at
when you open the door
and look out of windows
FANTASTIC

Comments: They are beautiful flowers and nice colours.
Into the garden you can have really nice picnic
Before it was messy and now it is a nice
and beautiful

Comments: We visited a friend today and the first thing we commented on upon arrival is how beautiful the outside area looks. We have been visiting here for years and it is transformed from a dull, unwelcoming place to the opposite. It is now full of colour, warmth, and is welcoming. It also feels safer.

Comments: The whole area around the flat now look friendly and colourful. Rob & Mel have spent hours making the place look pretty and have transformed the garden for the whole flat community. Long may it last.

Continued:
A. M...

Comments: I have visited my friend over the last ten years who lives in Cockerett House and I have been delighted to see the transformation made to the area by the hard work and enthusiasm of the small group of people who do the gardening.

It is lovely to witness the hard work they have done and to see how the other residents are using and enjoying the improved area.

Continued:

"I have been visiting a friend of mine for many, many years and have been overwhelmed by the change in the court yard area outside her block of flats. It has transformed from a barren unwelcoming concrete area to an oasis of breathtaking colour and a joy to look at. Now instead of being in her flat with no balcony or garden we sit outside with our cups of tea come rain or shine. A pleasure to use that space now".