

GROWING A GARDEN – Growing a Community



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Growing a Community

Wombwell Community
Alliance
and Berneslai Homes

Alan Taylor



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GROWING A GARDEN – *Growing a Community*

- The Start
- The Development
- Where we are now
- Where we are going
- Lessons Learned





Where did it all start

Seeds sown from Alliance and Berneslai Homes

- **Alliance** – *Plan for Wombwell* includes a priority as ‘Development of land locked areas and promoting healthy living and general wellbeing
- **Berneslai** -Priorities Asked to consider sites where grass cutting budget could be reduced.
 - Sustain communities.
 - Ongoing commitment to community engagement in general



Initial Feasibility Meetings and Consultation

- TARA , Berneslai, Alliance, SB Area Team, Tesco,
- Consultation at an earlier Picnic in the Park
- *Defining what we want to achieve*
- Establish Provisional Costs
- Determine funding streams
Community Alliance and
Berneslai Homes





What will the finished product be?

- Meeting point
- Family development
- Learn new skills
- Impart old skills
- Get to know broader neighbours
- Remove social isolation
- Be inclusive
- Cross generation relationships
- Healthy life style





Details and possible showstoppers

- Site Options
- Locked site / Site Security
- Block any access points
- Hard core for parking
- Water supply
- Design and layout of beds



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DEVELOPING THE GARDEN

Consultations

40 questionnaires issued -
Issues identified: **security, vandalism, children playing games, livestock, sheds**

Community Event on site in October with consultation on purpose, layout, security issues – **RAIN RAIN RAIN RAIN**



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Residents meetings at Cricket Club ----- Feeling of great disappointment with the poor turn out

Wondering whether to pull the plug

Jola and Amanda doubled and re-doubled efforts with door knocking and phone calls and got a handful signed up

Acknowledged that small numbers at first could build into more interest once the project was up and running

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In and amongst all this in January 2016 we needed to nail down the costs much better

Finally estimate £15350 *Including the Access Road*

Berneslai provided £8000

Alliance provided £7350





Easter Holiday Community Event

A turning point

Better weather and over 100 people

4 beds laid and adopted in advance

Further 8 beds laid on the day and adopted

Moved a mountain of top soil



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**Easter Holiday
Community
Event**



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And we have gone
from strength to
strength



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And strength
to strength



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And strength
to strength



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Berneslai Homes Proud of your Estate evening

More interest in the garden and more beds planted

Now up to 18 beds

Tyre Painting



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Wombwell Park

Small Garden laid

Commemoration Plaque unveiled

Over 150 people there including veterans

Children from 3 schools laid home made poppies





Where do we go from here?

Survive the winter and into spring

Run an Autumn event

Re-start next March

Include gardeners on the Management Board

The alternative Olympics



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Lessons Learned

Don't be disheartened

Best way to get people
on board is to start

Plan it. Plan it. Plan it.
again



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Governance

Have a proper Project Board and chair it tightly

Document decisions

Have a funding approval process and series of authorities

Keep a close grip.



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From
Here

To
Here



And
Here



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Thank you for listening

Alan Taylor

Credits and Acknowledgements to

Amanda Bradshaw and the South Barnsley Area Team

Jola Walker and Berneslai Homes

The Tidy Team

Brian Whitaker our Treasurer

Wombwell Ward Community Alliance

