

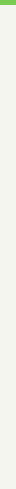


SUSTAINABLE BARNESLEY  
CASE - STUDY



# The Dell Grimethorpe

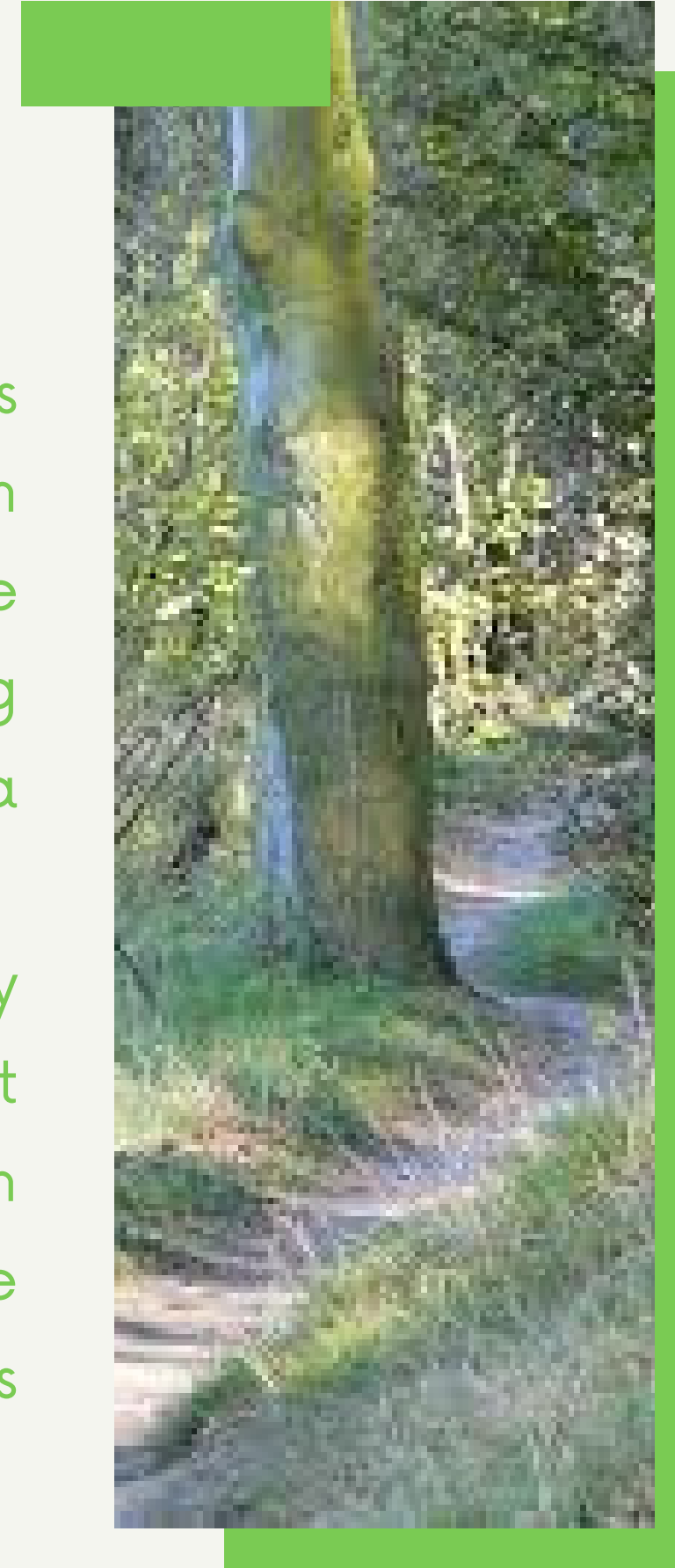
A partnership project between  
the Dell Steering Group &  
North East Area Council



# Background

Since mid 2020 - A group of residents have come together, with support from the CDO for North East Ward, under the banner of the Dell Steering Group, looking to make improvements to The Dell, a green space in Grimethorpe.

This emerged out of a residents-led survey that showed that many people care a lot about the green space & park, but often feel unsafe or unprepared to go to the dell due to issues of ASB, neglect or issues with access.



# Why do residents want to improve The Dell?

## DISREPAIR

The site has been in a state of decline for some time – the park equipment are over 20 years old, paths and entrances are damaged, the council building is derelict & the ponds and wooded areas are in need of management.

## IMPROVE ACCESS TO GREEN SPACE

Many local people report that they struggle to access The Dell, due to damaged entrances & paths, and a lack of disabled access. This in turn has negative health impacts on local people who feel unable to access the Dell for exercise & leisure.

## CIVIC PRIDE

Local people remember when the Dell was a well used and maintained community asset & centre for civic events, & wish to bring it back to its former glory.

## SPACES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

Locals feel there are few places for young people to spend time, and wish to create a space that young people have a stake in.



# What's happened so far?

## ○ VISIONING EXERCISES

Our CDO has worked with residents to explore a new vision for The Dell, through workshops & meetings.

## ○ BIODIVERSITY STUDIES

Funded by the Ward Alliance, these studies gave the group a picture of the levels of biodiversity on the site currently & recommendations for improvements.

## ○ CONSTITUTED COMMUNITY GROUP

Worked with the residents to become constituted & expand the steering group.

## ○ VOLUNTEER SESSIONS

Supported by BCB, the group have run volunteer litter picks & sessions to cut and trim back overgrown hedges & trees to improve the site & engage new volunteers.





# Collaboration with

## SHEFFIELD UNIVERSITY LIVE PROJECTS

Beginning in October 2021, the North East Area Council commissioned Sheffield University's Architecture Department, as part of the Live Projects initiative, to work with the Dell Steering Group & other partners, to develop a set of proposals that the Area Council will work with the group to take forward.



OCT - DEC 2021





## CO-DESIGN & ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

Over these 6 weeks, students from the Live Projects programme met weekly with the Dell Steering Group, local residents & young people. These sessions provided opportunities for local residents to share their ideas & knowledge about the local area & co-design proposals for improvements to The Dell.







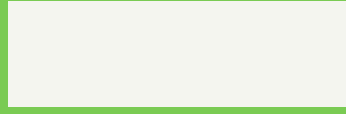
# Youth Engagement Event



THE FINAL EVENT OF THE PROGRAMME FOCUSED AROUND GAINING YOUNG PEOPLES VIEWS TOWARD THE PROPOSALS. THE CENTRAL ASPIRATION OF THE PROCESS WAS TO ENSURE YOUNG PEOPLE PLAYED A CENTRAL ROLE THROUGHOUT, & THEREFORE THE GROUP WANTED TO MAKE THE ENGAGEMENT EVENT AS APPEALING AND RELEVANT AS POSSIBLE TO ENCOURAGE THEIR INVOLVEMENT.



# YOUTH ENGAGEMENT EVENT



## YOUTH ACTIVITIES

That attracted young people and families to the event & demonstrated possible future uses of the site.



## CRAFT EXERCISES

Totem sculptures and tile painting workshops that we will look to embed into the final proposals.



## CONSULTATION OF PROPOSALS

The event also provided an opportunity to discuss the proposals & get further resident input.



# BUILDING SUSTAINABILITY INTO THE PROJECT



## PARTNERSHIP APPROACH

Embedding key BMBC/external partners in process (Parks, Estates, Rights of Way, Early Intervention & Prevention, YWT, Elected members, BCB, Jolly Good Communities)

## CAPACITY BUILDING

Placing residents at the centre of the process gives them the skills, confidence & ownership to carry proposals forward.

## COMMUNITY LED

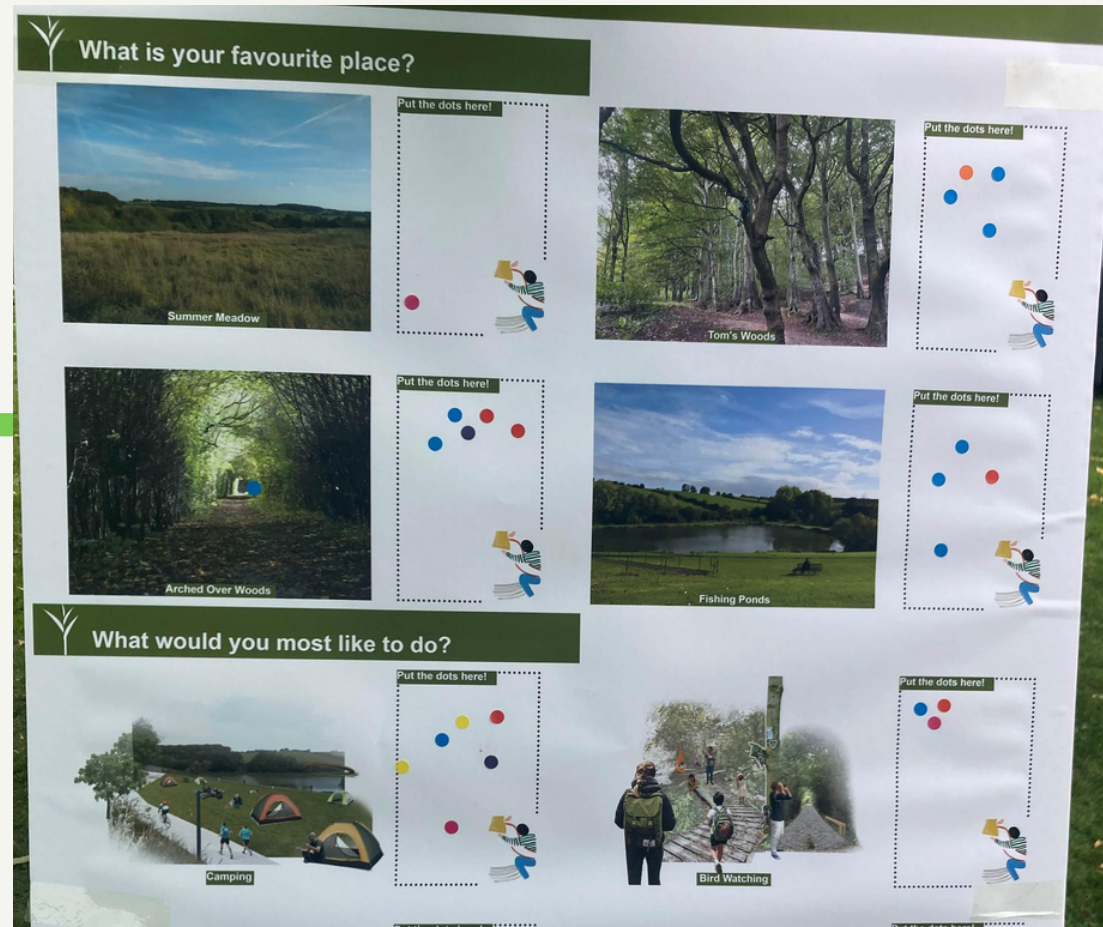
An emphasis on a genuinely resident-led process that empowered local residents and embedded a sense of responsibility early on in the process.

## CO-DESIGN

Emphasising and valuing local knowledge & experience as a way to develop proposals.



# Outputs of the process



230

PEOPLE HAVE BEEN INVOLVED DIRECTLY IN AN ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITY SO FAR



65

OF THESE PEOPLE WERE UNDER THE AGE OF 16



32

NEW VOLUNTEERS SIGNED UP TO BE INVOLVED IN THE PROJECT





# SOME OF THE PROPOSALS



Creating improved access to the pond areas + creating wildlife educational opportunities



Improving pathways and access to woodland areas + facilitating better access in and around the site.





# PROPOSALS CONTINUED



Creating a community orchard & wildflower meadow on the former 'summer meadow' site.



Creating a temporary community hub, community cafe & youth space at the heart of The Dell.





## COLLABORATION BUILDS TRUST

For a number of reasons, trust between residents and authorities has been lost over the preceding years. Joined up, genuinely collaborative working between council and community, rebuilds this trust & provides the foundation for our service to work in more dynamic ways with communities moving forward.

## EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES TO TAKE THE LEAD

In the case of The Dell, empowering communities to take the lead means giving communities the skills & capacities to drive projects forward & build relationships & understandings of formal process. Therefore, through empowering residents to play a central role forges sustainability through inscribing community management/responsibility early in the process.

# Conclusions

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## PEOPLE WANT TO TAKE CARE OF THE ENVIRONMENT - IF THEY ARE ENABLED TO

Our experience is that local people care deeply about their local green space & are keen to be involved in order to see them improved. However, we need to do more to empower & support residents in this mission, & be more transparent & cooperative to achieve this.