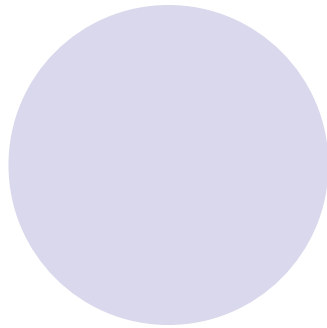
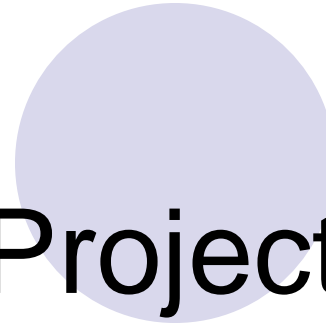


Project report



**Creative Places – Radstock
Neighborhood Arts projects**



nesa



Project details

Development Workers:

- Karen Macdonald
- Philippa Forsey
- Mags MacRae

- Start date: October 2007
- Completion date: June 2009

Project Description



Creative Places is a creative community development project that has worked in two disadvantaged rural communities in B&NES: Peasedown St John and Radstock (specifically the Springfield Crest and Clandown areas). The project aimed to consult, engage, involve and motivate/empower the communities, encouraging residents to develop strategies to tackle anti-social behaviour, and start working together to make their community a better place to live, to promote health and well-being improvements and improve their quality of life.

The project set out to use a variety of artforms, working in some cases with targeted groups and in other with open workshops and consultation sessions, offering all the opportunity to feed into a common end product(s). The initial ideas were:

- Landscaping / outdoor sculpture in communal areas in Fosse Green
- Other physical improvements to the immediate areas of Fosse Green, Walnut Buildings/Springfield Crest – clear up through junk sculpture, gardening, paint project for doors
- Project engaging with traveller community in Clandown, integrating them more with the permanent residents
- Setting up of a Youth Café or after-school creative club at Whisty Hall
- Artists in Residence working on a street theatre style consultation which will visit different areas and events, involving people in contributing ideas and artwork to develop a series of posters and postcards to turn the areas into ‘outdoor galleries’

The first and the last of the list above took place, plus a variety of other activities.

In the longer term a need has been identified for a community space in Clandown, which used to have several churches and a school all of which have now closed down. The Lamb pub in Chapel Road is very open to community groups using its function room but this has limited accessibility, facilities and availability. Residents have pointed out that the empty school building would make an ideal educational community facility.

Partnership working



The project built on partnerships that nesa has developed in the recent past working with other agencies in these communities, that tackle health promotion, creative education, skills development, community involvement in community development and facility improvement. It will support the development of these partnerships and others to facilitate nesa's aim to integrate creative community development projects with local priorities and the delivery of projects that meet local agendas and contribute funding and other resources to the project.

Partner groups have been:

- Somer Community Housing Trust
- Stay and Play groups at The Lamb run by Community Bus
- Whisty Hall
- Health Visitors / Community Nurse (PCT)
- Play Rangers
- Radstock Youth Centre / outreach workers (Youth Services)
- Radstock schools

Locality information

Participant Profile

- Couples and single parents with young children living in social housing in the two areas.
- Young people living in the social housing
- Extended families of the above
- Parents of young children who attend the Stay and Play / playgroups at Whisty and the Lamb (some but not all of these are also living in the SCHT homes)
- People who frequent the Lamb
- Other groups who use Whisty Hall
- Older people in bungalows at Springfield Crest
- Traveller community at Clandown was present at the start of the project but moved on halfway through
- General population of the two areas

Area Profile

● Area Profile

Tynning (the area that includes Walnut Buildings and Springfield Crest) is on a hill going out from Radstock town centre along the old Bath road. It has a mixture of social and privately owned housing much of which was built in the 80s. The social housing consists of four blocks with a total of around 80 flats. There is quite a high turnover of some residents. Some longer standing tenants complain that it is being used as a holding house for 'problem' families moved on from Snow Hill and other areas in Bath.

The area seems quiet, pleasant and friendly during the day but anti-social behaviour is reported at night and there is visible evidence of this and neglect/deprivation at the rears of the properties. SCHT has made recent improvements to communal areas including a small play park and bin cupboards. There is a park at Woodborough Road nearby which has been recently improved through the efforts of the Play Rangers. The park is well used for their sessions on a Monday and Thursday evening and has a small BMX track.

Whisty Hall is at the end of Walnut Buildings. Built 25 years ago, it is an excellent community facility and is well used for play groups, line dancing, and dog training; but residents complain that it is not made open/accessible enough to them. Various initiatives have been discontinued in recent years including an after school club and youth discos, due to legalities for maximum access and staffing levels, and some problem behaviour.

Trinity School is located above the park, flats and more housing. It opened two years ago resulting from the closure of Clandown and Tynning schools.

Clandown was originally a separate village and still regarded as being so by longer standing residents. It is on the other side of the Bath road from Tynning. It has been described as physically and socially in three strata – top (where there is some larger private housing), middle (a mixture of privately owned and social housing, with a recreation ground) and bottom (including the Fosse Green area). It has one Post Office/general store and the pub, but otherwise no facilities and residents rely on going into Radstock. There is a travelling community based on a camp overlooking the valley at the top of the hill.

The flats at Fosse Green are acknowledged by SCHT to be poorly laid out and in a poor state of repair. There are a few very long-standing residents who like the area but most are keen to leave.



Why was the Project Needed?

- High incidence of unemployment in the area
- Lots of young and/or single parents with small children who can feel isolated.
- In Clandown, there is currently little community activity. In Tynning there is more (with the Play Rangers working there and activities at Whisty Hall) but there is an issue with the perception of who these are for, which hopefully this project can help address.
- Encourage residents to feed into local planning
- re-engage people who may be feeling isolated or disaffected with their community
- promote positive images of the areas
- High level of health visitor involvement in the areas reflects child care and development problems
- Residents do not experience good health and well-being and are therefore targeted for health improvements.
- The LAA targets reflect the need to address these needs.

Outcomes aimed for

- Begin a process of creative community development, where residents will be more involved in decision making and have a greater sense of pride in their community
- Make actual improvements to the physical environment of the flats
- Health-related projects targeting specific groups (My Time My Space for women with post-natal depression, or Parents & Toddlers course on model of MTMS / project relating to alcohol/drugs use)
- Improved wellbeing, confidence and self esteem for individuals involved in the health related projects
- A Creative Community Showcase.
- Interventions/installations, public Art Works by the Artists in Residence
- Development of a Creative Community Plan 2008/011, supporting the development of Phase two.
- Improved partnership/inter-agency working
- One creative social enterprise in development.
- Greater awareness of the role that the arts can play in cultural regeneration and economic development.

Artistic Activity - residency

- The residency and other activity in Radstock followed on from a digital film and photography project that culminated in the production of a community film entitled *Where I Live* in summer 2007.
- Phase one of Creative Places was designed to focus on consultation, engagement, involvement and motivation, and to result in a number of different project outcomes, ranging from digital media productions to music/drama performances.
- Unlike Peasedown, there are no organised social groups within either Clandown or Tynning (other than the Stay & Play groups for parents with small children). In Clandown this is partly because there is no community venue; Tynning has Whisty Hall but there are historical barriers to using this, for many of the local residents. There is also an issue with motivation and engagement – Somer CHT have tried to persuade residents to form steering groups, to no avail.
- These factors meant that an innovative approach to engagement was needed by the Artist in Residence appointed to work in Radstock, as was underlined by poor attendance from local residents at ‘taster workshops’.
- ‘Once Arts & Ceremonies’ applied for the residency roles with the idea of taking on both areas; we appointed them but opted for the two artists from Once to share the role in Radstock and give the Peasedown residency to another artist, to use a different approach.
- Once specialise in working with communities to develop consultative and celebratory projects employing a range of art forms and approaches. They have a background in theatre, and also use visual arts and creative writing. They have a lot of experience of working in unusual settings with no fixed participant group, having to use their skills and initiative to engage hard-to-reach sectors of communities.
- For Radstock they proposed to base their activity around the ‘Creative Box’, a flexible prop for attracting attention and engaging passers-by with a wide range of creative activities: visual arts, storytelling, mapping.
- They worked by setting up on street corners, green areas, car park areas, by bus shelters, etc, and allowing people to come to them out of curiosity. Each of their days on site would incorporate one session in Clandown and one in Tynning, at a variety of times to ‘catch’ different groups. People became familiar with seeing them around and felt more comfortable to go up and talk to them.
- Due to the work required to engage people on the very basic level of getting them to come out of their doors and say hello, an ambitious end product such as a play or public sculpture was never going to be on the agenda. Once proposed to create a series of poster art works and postcards from the material gathered during their contact sessions, which would then be ‘given back’ to the communities – literally, by distributing postcards through doors, and by putting up posters on bus stops, railings and walls. Participants from the sessions would recognise their input, but there was still enough accessible material for any residents to get something from them.

Artistic Activity – improvements to the physical environment

- Gardening was something that during consultation (in the festive crafts activity and 'Where I Live' roadshow and taster sessions) had come up in both Clandown and Tynning. Residents in Somer flats in both areas had mentioned that some of them don't have their own gardens, and that other neighbours didn't look after theirs; in Fosse Green (Clandown) in particular, there was dissatisfaction about the lack of use of communal space. It was also suggested that flower displays could be a quick-fix way of brightening up the flats' balconies.
- Taster workshops in both areas: container gardening, outside the flats were well received. I
- Fosse Green a 4 day project helped develop a communal garden area in the school holidays. At times this also linked with a nesa Play Project consultation with B&NES education running in the area at the same time. A herb garden, compost corner, 'bee houses', willow sculptures and a large bamboo-and-tarpaulin den, as well as a thorough clearance of the land helped to make safe for play. The residents were pleased. Although there was not provision within Creative Places to continue the work on a long term basis but it was handed over to Somer (along with detailed feedback from residents) for them to maintain. Somer have developed a gardening group and undertaken to clear rubbish that has been dumped in the area. They have continued to employ the nesa gardener. It is hoped that the housing trust will install some play equipment for children.
- In the final stages of Creative Places Somer Housing approached nesa with a proposal to link to the Somer Housing Renewal Process. This project attracted match funding from Somer Housing and enabled artist Jill Carter and specialist artists in public art to combine skills of engagement and consultation and enable residents to positively contribute to the visual appearance of their Neighbourhood from March – June 2009 (Appendix: Clandown Renewal Process Arts Report)
- At Walnut Buildings / Springfield Crescent, Tynning area, there is no suitable communal garden area for development (the one at Walnut Buildings was made into a play area a few years ago and is already well maintained by Somer). Instead, nesa worked with the Play Rangers who meet twice weekly at Woodborough Road Park, the nearest public space, and involved the young people in designing and making decorative and functional sculptural poles for embedding in the ground. The idea is that they will form the basis for a simple flexible means of creating shelter in the park, which was one thing the children wanted that would also benefit local adults. The project coincided with B&NES winning PathFinder funding to improve/create 18 play spaces, and the council were enthusiastic about the sculpture project agreeing to install the poles as part of a more substantial development of the park involving planting and landscaping. This was a major success which could make a big difference to the area and the Playrangers feel that nesa's input influenced the decision.
- In the final stage of Creative Places nesa engaged with local children to finish painting totem poles and prepare them for erection in the public park. A final event is planned for when this process has been completed.

Artistic Activity - other

- A 10 week-session 'Creative Links' course (Spring 2008) in partnership with mental health & social service providers, helping adults with mental health concerns to build confidence and self esteem. This project initiated a pilot ' GP Referral scheme.' This was based in Peasedown St John
- A Follow up 10 week Creative Links course (Spring 2009) in Phase 2 based in Peasedown St John building on previous arts and health partnerships and providing progression routes for participants into other creative activity linked to Creative Places programme and public art project.
- A 10 week My Time My Space course (Spring 2008) linking with the local Primary Care Trust, local Health visitors and the newly formed Children's services Centre to provide socially engaged arts workshops for women suffering from post natal depression and providing a creche for their children
- A small 'roadshow' of the Where I Live film (Winter 2007) around venues in Radstock, combining screenings with festive craft activities and consultation on the film and the opinions expressed in it, to further develop ideas.
- 10 Flag making workshops with youth groups, Clandown Play group, My Time My Space, Meet the Neighbours, Connections, Tynning residents, producing 5 banners for Clandown Fun Day, art|works in Radstock festival, Bath International Music and Arts Festival and the launch of the National Cultural Olympiad.
- Issue based project working with Radstock Youth Club workers on a project working with young people who use ketamine. Activity included writing, film, drama and development of a website.
- A successful Play Funding bid linked a childrens consultation process with the Clandown Creative Places project. This involved artists Jill Carter, Claire Coleman, Philippa Forsey, Play Ranger David Reakes, leading creative workshops and consultation activities in various Clandown sites and a 1 day Clandown Funday activity event

Engagement taster workshops in the following artforms:

- Photography and digital image manipulation
- Gardening for window boxes and balconies / garden sculpture
- Clay sculpture / pottery
- Dance / keep-fit to music
- Singing
- Jewellery making
- Willow work

The taster workshops and the festive crafts, whilst engaging nearly 70 people at the Radstock sessions, were not very successful at drawing in the people living closest to the sites in Clandown and Tynning that we were targeting. This underlined the necessity of a different approach for the resident artists; something that would not require people to make a commitment and cross a threshold.

Artistic Practice



- Two artists shared one of the Creative Places residency positions – Refkah A’Court and Rebecca Gee from Once Arts & Ceremonies’ based in Bristol.
- Residents were involved in the recruitment and selection of the artists. However there was significantly more involvement from residents in Peasedown, which is at a more advanced stage in terms of community engagement than the particular target areas of Radstock.
- Other experienced artists/designers worked on specific projects including garden design/container gardening (Kevin Connell – a tutor at Norton Radstock College), outdoor sculpture with young people through the Play Rangers (Bob Packham), banner making (Philippa Forsey), Clandown Renewal Project. Jill Carter, Philippa Forsey, Jeff Body, Andrew Bolton and John Straysparks,
- More artists were involved in the ‘taster workshops’ to enable engagement and raise the profile of the project.

Outcome: A creative community where residents are more involved in decision-making and have a greater sense of pride in their community.

Measures of success

- Between 5 and 8 arts projects
 - Themes: heritage, location, services, interests, skills, issues, art from based, multi art form, collaborative, digital media
- 90 participants
- 1 showcase event
- 270+ audience figures
- Public art work/interventions [artists in residence]
- Draft creative community plan
- Funding Plan/package for long term development
- 1 creative social enterprise in development
- Residents Steering Groups in development [supported attendance and skills development]
- Public service delivery affected by residents involvement/consultation
- Improved environment, residents take greater ownership of and responsibility for their locality
- Improved quality of life
- Service providers working together to improve service provision.

What happened

- Nine projects (roadshow/crafts, taster workshops, garden development, Park sculpture, Once residency project, 3Health & Wellbeing courses, Clandown Renewal consultation)
- 356 enrolments (there is a chance that some of these were the same people attending different events)
- 4 showcase events: the Once poster display, Park Sculpture and Play launch – Summer 2009, Clandown Renewal Project launch and celebration events).
- 4 showcases for Flags made by locals at art|works Radstock festival, Clandown Fun Day, Bath International Music and Arts Festival and the launch of the National Cultural Olympiad.
- Audience figures for this are difficult to ascertain certainly be over 1,000
- Interventions through Once residency, one piece of public art work by young people yet to be installed, one garden development
- Good foundations for a draft creative community plan
- No funding plan yet
- No social enterprise yet – more time is needed for building relationships with the residents and building their confidence.
- A residents' steering group forming in Clandown further to development of the Renewal project
- Somer Community Housing Trust is taking significant notice of residents' opinions and the needs that have emerged through the project. B&NES have developed the Woodborough Road Park, the Play Consultation project in Clandown has influenced play provision.
- Localised improvements to the environment (garden, park) which residents and the housing trust are furthering.
- Improved quality of life through the above
- Creative Places has provoked greater partnership working to improve service provision in the area



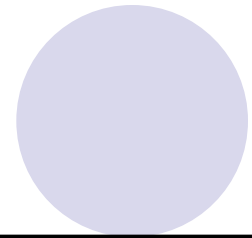
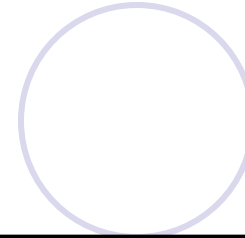
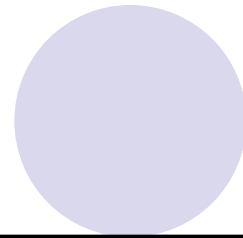
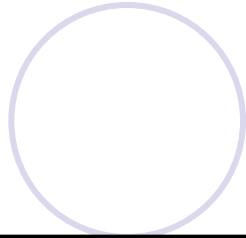
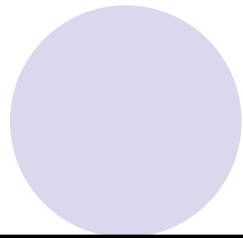
Outcome: Artists supported and developed

Measures of success

- 2 x art|speak events
- 4 new artists with the skills and experience to work on community arts projects
 - Five week courses/mentoring [Development Worker Led]
 - Shadowing
- 2 x artists in residence working with communities to explore and trace their impact on the community/reflection in action

What happened

- 2 x art|speak events
- New artists working with in Radstock are Bob Packham, Kevin Connell (a creative horticulturalist), Marina Sossi and Neil Light, Andrew Bolton, John Collins, None of them are new to this kind of work but all were new to nesa in 2008/9.
- 3 artists in residence Refkah A'Court, Rebecca – Once and Jill Carter – Clandown Renewal project
- The mentoring strand worked with 8 artists, pairing experienced with new artists. All participants gained something from the opportunity citing the learning of new skills, increased confidence and understanding of working in community settings as key elements of the experience.



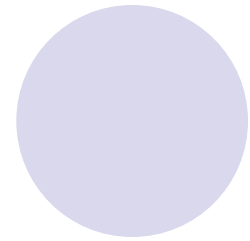
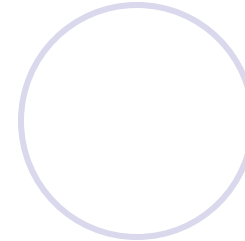
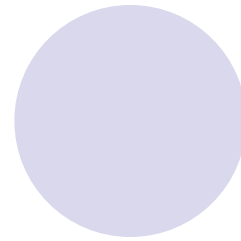
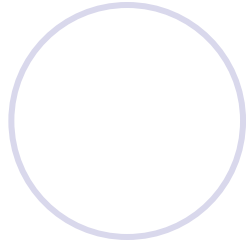
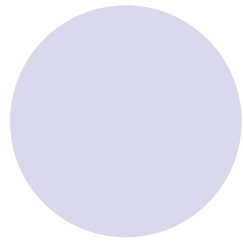
Outcome: nesa’s creative programme integrated with local priorities, working in partnerships with other agencies and advocating for the arts and cultural inclusion.

Measures of success

- Issues raised by participants in the projects, and in response to the artistic outcomes, passed to the Town Council will be reflected in local area plans
- Partnership with Children’s and Youth Services strengthened through plans for ongoing work in Tynning/Clandown areas.
- Evidence will be collected and disseminated about how creative community development activities contribute to strong, cohesive and sustainable communities with long term vision. This will strengthen nesa’s reputation and attract greater resources to the organisation to rollout successful projects to more communities.
- Partnerships will be consolidated and developed.

What happened

- Issues have been reported to Somer Community Housing Trust and to B&NES where relevant. Norton Radstock Town Council will receive a copy of the report
- Creative Places has worked with B&NES Youth Services, Play Rangers and Children’s Services, although a limited link during this project in this area at this time.
- Evidence will be shared with other partners and members of the Creative Places steering group
- Partnerships with Somer, schools, Youth Services, Play Rangers, local PCT have been consolidated and developed. Potential to increase and further develop partnership projects with GP surgeries and Whisty Hall Trust.



Outcome: Improved partnership / inter-agency working in Radstock.

Measures of success

- Listings and contacts for all community groups collated and distributed
- Membership of the Project Steering Group – to include the existing members of the Where I Live steering group but expanded to include other agencies
- Joint action on points identified during consultation with residents (such as improvements to flats, anti-social behaviour initiatives)

What happened

- Through the Creative Places Steering Group, which expanded during the project to include for example representatives of B&NES Sport & Active Leisure team, Youth Workers, Wansdyle Play Association, different staff from Somer CHT, information is shared with a number of groups and agencies. Not all invited to join the steering group took it up (for example the Community Bus).
- Joint action – on Somer Housing properties and the Woodborough Rd Park – has taken place.

Project Sustainability:

the potential for the project to develop in the long term.

Predicted outcomes

- The multi-agency approach will ensure that community development continues in line with local priorities.
- Partners will work together to develop funding packages that respond to community needs as articulated by the residents through their involvement in the project.
- As the project demonstrates its success in helping to meet targets set by the Local Area Agreement, further benefits and services will be made available in the community
- Health and social improvements will mean that less intervention is needed by the PCT, Children's Services, the Police and other agencies
- Residents will experience a greater sense of community safety and a greater sense of belonging.
- The Quality of Life for residents will continue to improve as confidence and skills levels increase residents ability to access training and employment.

Results

- The multi-agency partnership has been very necessary for the project and certain strands of it will continue beyond its official 'end'
- More work needs to be done on funding packages. There is scope for discussions with Somer CHT which has indicated that it may fund nesa to carry out further consultation work
- As described, the project has influenced plans for further developments to play facilities, to communal garden areas and Somer Housing Trusts Renewal Project
- Partners on the steering group also continue to link with PCT, Children's Services, Police etc. Creative Places cannot claim that the project has had a direct impact on community safety and health, but a by product of closer partnership working could indicate this in the future.
- CP has certainly improved a sense of community in localised pockets.
- Involving residents in the Clandown Renewal process has given residents opportunities for participation, to take control by affecting decision making and empowering them which are all factors that affect mental Well being. It would be possible to carry out a Mental Wellbeing Impact Assessment in the future to evidence on recognised scales from completed training by Philippa Forsey, nesa.
- Continued engagement is needed to progress making a difference to people's lives.

Monitoring and Evaluation: project specific

What we hoped to learn

- That socially-engaged participatory art has an important role to play in community development and regeneration: The project has underlined that this kind of arts practice can be a catalyst, motivating and transformative.
- What art does, for people and for communities, for organisations and for social policy and environmental issues: We have discovered that it gets people talking and engaged, enables participation and inclusion in local community life, oiling the social wheels, links people to heritage, highlight issues, offers practical solutions and in some cases empowers people to take control or inspires further action. It contributes to changing peoples perceptions and improving safety (Appendix Clandown Renewal Project Arts Report)
- That partnership and joined up working creates more opportunity for local issues to be addressed innovatively and creatively: This was certainly proved through the work with Somer and their residents, the Play Rangers and B&NES planning department.

How results will influence future working policy

- Improved partnership working
- Greater cross-programme activity that responds to real issues within communities through both targeted work and general community development and celebration
- Improved dialogue with wider cultural community
- Long term research programme to provide authoritative evidence on what art does.
- Mapping of community change processes through creative activity.

Monitoring and Evaluation methods

- Monitoring participant numbers
- Ongoing checks against project aims and objectives
- Checking outputs against the proposed timetable
- Mid project monitoring and evaluation of process
- Partner feedback
- Participant feedback
 - One-to-one or group interviews / informal feedback meetings
 - post-it notes / comments sheets
 - visual feedback
 - questionnaires
- Artists' feedback
- Artists' diaries
- Photographic documentation
- Audience feedback
- Peer organisation feedback
- All monitoring and evaluation material will be compiled into a final project report which will be disseminated to partners and funders and reviewed internally to improve future practice.

Artists Information



- Artists in Residence Profile: specific skills, responsibilities and requirements – see Leigh House\projects\creativeplaces\Artists\AIR brief
- Artists in Residence Brief: Specific duties of the artists, dates and times. As above
- Fee: £8000 - £10,000
- Recruitment Process: Open recruitment through regional and national e-mail lists and websites: B&NES eBulletin, ArtsMatrix, Arts Council Jobs List, a-n, Public Art South West, Arts & Health South West

Artists Information



- Freelance Artists' Profile: general skills, responsibilities and requirements – see Appendix [Leigh House\projects\creativeplaces\Artists\Engagement Artist brief CP tasters](#)
- Freelance Artists' specific skills, duties and Brief: Appendix
- Specific duties of the artists, dates and times. [See Leigh House\projects\creativeplaces\Artists for various briefs and contracts](#)
- Fee: £150 per day / £75 per session
- Recruitment Process: Mixed. Some one-off or very short run taster workshops are recruited from amongst nesa's known pool of skilled regular artists. Longer series of workshops will be recruited through an open process as described for the Artists in Residence

Project Legacy: Benefits to nesa

Aimed for:

- Greater integration with local priorities and partnerships
- Service level agreements supporting partnership delivery
- Higher profile locally, regionally and nationally
- Raised awareness of the value of socially engaged participatory arts.

Results from the Neighbourhood Arts strands:

- Better awareness of nesa's work and its potential with existing partners
- Higher profile locally, and regionally through press coverage. Probably no change in national profile
- Raised awareness of the value of socially engaged participatory arts amongst local agencies

Benefits to the partners

Aimed for:

- Added value to existing partners' initiatives resulting in better engagement processes, accessibility, consultation and involvement and learning.
- Somer Community Housing Trust has property in the area and struggles to get residents to take responsibility for their homes and their environment, this project will assist them to tackle this problem by engaging and involving residents in making better, more informed choices.
- The high level of health visitor involvement in the area reflects child care and development problems. By working closely with them, the project will assist them to target problems and issues, both through general community activities that promote a vibrant sense of community and by targeted activities that work with:
 - People with drug and alcohol problems,
 - Children exhibiting anti-social behaviour and emotional difficulties,
 - Older children who are at risk of exclusion
 - Families
- Partners will see at first hand how quality arts practice can help them to achieve their long term ambitions.
- Partners will work together to develop funding packages that respond to community needs as articulated by the residents through their involvement in the project.

Results from the Neighbourhood Arts work:

- Added value to initiatives from Somer CHT, Youth Service, PCT, Play Rangers, Children's Services
- Actively involving and encouraging Somer residents to become part of the process of Renewal being undertaken on their properties to improve the safety and visual appearance of their community areas.
- Working with : children and young people, Families, Older children at risk of exclusion, People with addiction problems,
 - The project has helped underscore the value and transformative power of the arts especially when used in a process of change. CP has also helped partners achieve their targets and longer term ambitions.
 - CP has attracted other sources of funding but where CP project has started and initiated a process of engagement with disparate communities it is clear that further funding packages are needed to sustain and develop these community and initiatives.

Benefits to the artists

Aimed for:

- Opportunity to develop their socially-engaged participatory arts practice.
- Potential to develop a long term relationship with a community that will result in some significant public and socially engaged art works.
- Raised profile.
- Opportunity to collaborate with other artists and to share experiences with wider artistic community through **art|speak** events and the planned Conference for 2008.

Results from Neighbourhood Arts work:

- The project has enabled many artists to further develop their socially engaged practice
- Jill Carter continued engagement in Clandown with other nesa known artists establishing and building on relationships of trust and respect in the area.
- Raised profile locally through press coverage
- Many opportunities for collaborative working in communities and in participation at **art|speak** events and the mentoring project

Feedback from artists



- “We found the response of people in Clandown & Tynning curious, receptive and warm.. People seemed to grasp what we were doing and feel it was a nice, fun, charming, meaningful thing to be happening in their streets if a bit unusual!” (Once, resident artists)
- “The practical needs of the communities are so clear and pervasive that successful projects need to engage with them in some way and be proactive... using arts as an enabling tool and a hook into the greater, non-arts problem areas... other practical barriers such as awareness and childcare need to be seen to be being addressed” (Once)
- “You should have been here on Friday – there were about fifteen children running around, digging for worms, and ‘calling for the spiders to come out’” (Kevin Connell, gardening project in Fosse Green)
- “This is not my main medium, but I enjoyed the research involved in planning the workshops and felt that it was well received” (Anita Andrews, standing in for Jo Ingleby in jewellery workshops)

Benefits to participants

Aimed for:

- Residents in the targeted communities experience multiple disadvantages. The streets and open spaces are often dirty and littered. Residents and their children often congregate in shared open spaces and this can lead to intergenerational problems and inter-neighbour disputes. Children are often still playing outside, unsupervised, late in the evening. There are a high number of racist incidents; drug and alcohol abuse and some residents do not experience good health and well-being.
- As a result of this project residents will:
- Experience a greater sense of community safety
- A greater sense of belonging to their community and pride in its heritage and future.
- An improved environment, with participant led initiatives to improve local areas and facilities.
- Members of the community contributing to community development, taking a greater interest in and responsibility for decision-making.
- An improved quality of life, health and well being.
- Improved confidence, self esteem and skills levels.
- Greater ability of residents to access training and employment.
- Community cohesion.
- Less anti-social behaviour.
- The development of a Social Enterprise run by the community for the community.

Results from Neighbourhood Arts work:

- Fosse Green: clean up operations, gardening regeneration and participation in socially inclusive arts activity. Recommendations to Somer on safer play facilities and areas. Issues with substance abuse and neighbour disputes underlie some problems but some residents moving on has alleviated some of these problems during the project.
- Tynning: some anti-social problems alleviated by residents moving on. Long term work is needed to make a real impact on these very large issues.
- Safety in Clandown addressed as part of the Renewal process with residents actively involved in decision making and opportunities to improve inclusive accessibility for all. CPSO's work in these areas and as their roles develop nesa intends to continue linking with them through PACT groups and on the ground.
- CP has encouraged a sense of community through actively involving people in participatory arts activity and developing a heritage project in Clandown. Further engagement would support and develop this initial process.
- Environmental improvements in Tynning and Clandown (see Clandown Renewal Report)
- People have been encouraged to contribute their thoughts and opinions to Somer and B&NES
- CP has enabled a process of consultation that has enabled people to express their thoughts and feelings about where they live developing confidence, self esteem and skills. Partnerships with Somer have contributed to residents positively linking with their communities: Gardening, renewal process. Community cohesion improved in Fosse Green through tasters, play, gardening and renewal process. Longer term input required to embed this process
- Somer Housing residents suffer from short term residencies which have created anti social behaviour issues. CP has provided a model of socially inclusive practice which it would like to develop further with Somer and residents.



Feedback from participants

- “This is a great idea, it’s really brought people together as a community” (Fenton Weeks, resident in Fosse Green)
- “New experience, meeting new people” (participant, Dance taster workshop)
- “Making something big together as a permanent display” (participant, pottery taster workshop, in response to the question ‘what art projects do you think would benefit your community?’)
- “Whisty Hall could be used for a lot more things to draw families and the communities in” (participant, Where I Live roadshow)
- “(I think we should do) something where kids make art that can become an installation in the community, so as the child grows, s/he can look and think ‘I did that’” (participant, taster workshop)
- Sally Jackson, Housing Officer, said that two years ago she used to get negative feedback from residents and didn’t like coming to Clandown. Since the involvement of nesa and positive engagement the feedback is more positive and the Somer relationship with residents has come a long way.

Benefits to the local authority

Aimed for:

- The multi-agency approach will ensure that community development continues in line with local priorities, is consistent and joined up.
- As the project demonstrates its success in helping to meet targets set by the Local Area Agreement, further benefits and services will be made available in the community
- The Local Area Agreement targets reflect the need to address these needs.
- The project will impact on social policy and environmental and service planning in these communities by involving residents in consultation and decision making.
- Health and social improvements will mean that in the longer term less intervention is needed by the PCT, Children's Services, the Police and other agencies.

Results from the Neighbourhood Arts work:

- The multi-agency work has developed well and has been maintained
- Further benefits and services as described
- Residents actively supported to feed their opinions to Somer and other agencies through the Renewal process. Longer term work would further establish the relationships of trust and positive contribution during processes of change. CP has integrated and valued residents in contributing to planning and decision making. These are long term processes and need commitment by project partners.
- CP has initiated deeper engagement and aspirations to contribute to community life and make social improvements. In the long term continued partnership could sustain CP initiatives. A Mental Wellbeing Impact Assessment would enable residents and Support Agencies to identify factors that affect health and wellbeing enabling a joined up approach to community development and support initiatives.

Benefits to regeneration



Aimed for:

- The project will promote the development of a vibrant sense of community, with local people involved in shaping local activities, policies and planning developments.
- Environmental improvements will be initiated, initially through greater care taken, and as the project develops, resident-led initiatives to improve facilities, design and recycling and implement public and socially engaged arts projects and products.
- A body of art works and interventions will be built up to support the inclusion of SEPA in regeneration projects.

Results from Neighbourhood Arts work:

- As described, the project has helped develop a sense of community. The process of change is long and CP has identified further development to embed this productive partnership approach.
- Targeted environmental improvements have taken as reported previously
- Artworks and interventions have supported regeneration projects



Recommendations - partnerships

- Build on and develop relationships with Somer Community Housing Trust for further creative consultation and regeneration projects (in Radstock and elsewhere)
- Continue links with Play Rangers
- Reconvene and report back to Creative Places steering group to reflect on outcomes and opportunities. There was some drop-off of attendance from some organisations (e.g. Extended Schools) and others joined (e.g. Sport & Active Leisure) so there is need to adjust the line up in light of groups' agendas and capacity.
- Identify funding partnerships to enabled continued engagement. E.g. A joint funding bid to the Arts Council with Somer Housing Trust to develop and support the longer term Renewal project and other iniatives.
- Project outcomes have identified interest in links to heritage and environment which could be developed for further funding bids.

Recommendations – art forms / activities

- Make provision for nesa involvement in Woodborough Park launch / celebration – the current suggestion is a street party, which was mentioned by a resident, and would recall a party that was held in Tynning for the coronation (hopefully involving the older residents who live in the Springfield bungalows)
- There is need for more on-site / door knocking type work in both Clandown and Tynning, of the variety that Once and the artists working on the Play Consultation employed. This seems to be the most effective way of engaging with people, as motivation is still a barrier.
- There is still scope for a regular activity in Whisty Hall, to repair bridges with the community and draw them back in to a valuable community resource.
- A film club was one suggestion which arose a year ago and was never taken further – but has been repeated as a result of Once's residency, which could be one way of getting people back into Whisty Hall (it could be paired with drama, photography, filming or creative writing activities, and is something that could potentially be taken on by a group of residents, perhaps even as a social enterprise)
- It would be a pity to not capitalise on a good foundation with residents at Fosse Green. More work with them could help establish a proper resident steering group for advising nesa on future work in Clandown. Nesa could also support them in developing a social enterprise (gardening? Community vegetable garden, selling produce?) and in making their funding applications for play equipment and other improvements to their facilities. The contact could be maintained through creative activities targeted at the adults, to help build their confidence (may need a creche, which may mean moving it to The Lamb rather than outside the flats or use of the portacabin on site during the renewal process; or it could continue to focus on family-oriented creative play and continue to take place outdoors.
- The lack of a community space in Clandown (apart from the darts room of The Lamb Inn, which is generously made available by the landlords at certain times but is not ideal for many situations), is keenly felt. There is a sense that everything has gradually gone from Clandown in terms of infrastructure – the churches and their halls, the school, public access to the snooker club – and that what is still there is withheld from residents for reasons they aren't made aware of. The school building sits empty and people would be keen to use it, except that the scrap metal dealers' yard would make access dangerous and difficult. I'm not sure what if anything could be done to address this, but longer term work with agencies active in the area may turn up possibilities.

Recommendations from the Artists in Residence

- - Films showings in Whisty Hall – something that everyone wants to see and some short films - followed up by a project with a film maker.
- - The design/creation of a skate ramp on either site
- - Tynning Batch - a project in collaboration with the local council, English Nature/BTCV or similar orgs looking at the history, ecology, protection and interpretation of this well used but slightly demoralised now natural space inches from people's homes. Arts engagement projects that work alongside nature based orgs could be really exciting here – also as celebrations of longer term nature based work i.e. processions, performances etc.
- - Community space – to actively collaborate at community level and use the arts to support this voice to address the community space issue in Clandown on a small and large scale i.e. from working with print artists to support a community campaign to working with craftsmen, sculptors and celebratory artists to design and build a timber frame community centre of the rec!
- - Building crèche facilities into the funding of projects for parents with young children – addressing the adults' need for space, stimulation, reflection and confidence building – and removing their greatest barrier to engaging with activities. The mere fact of an offer of a free crèche for an afternoon to catch up with your friends, would I think be a door opener in itself!
- - In C&T children are in some ways a barrier to engaging adults but also they are a useful hook, the adults really got pleasure from the enjoyment and engagement of their child in an activity and doing projects/activities that are about building on that pride, that require parent and child to work and learn together, could be really rewarding for the participants in this context.
- - A project for elders based on the little local bus that goes up and down the hill.
- - Arts based trips – with free transport – the offer of free days/evenings out somewhere, could be an opportunity to experience and participate in arts events that could then feed choices and ideas about what residents might like to see in their community.
- - Reminiscence/oral history/intergenerational projects that start small and build – perhaps feeding a new group for elders. Also more contemporary activities for elders close to home.
- - Artists in residence project working with older young people in their locality. With a focused remit and a specifically recruited group of who have an interest in the arts or careers in the arts. To create a piece of work/event that is rooted in their community.