

Clandown Renewal Project

Art Project Report May 09

This report summarises the findings from a community arts intervention within Somer Housing Trusts renewal process in Fosse Green and Chapel Court Clandown, Radstock, which ran from April – June 2009

Project aim:

To engage with the residents in the Clandown area and explore ideas for making the area a place where people want to live. The aim of the arts consultation process was to investigate resident's views and opinions about how the visual appearance of the area could be improved and focused on:

1. Strengthening residents' sense of local identity and belonging
2. Engaging residents in the renewal process
3. Improving the visual appearance of Fosse Green and Chapel Court
4. Increasing creativity, skills and social networking
5. Creating a more positive image for the area
6. Making the area feel welcoming, friendly and vibrant to residents and visitors

The arts consultation included:

- 19 creative sessions on site
- 6 specialist sessions working with an ironworker, stone carver and mosaic visual artist
- Creative sessions for adults, parents and children at varying times of the day and days of the week
- Creative engagement tools included documentary photography, recording dialogue and arts making
- Research at Radstock Museum with residents
- A launch event
- A final event and picnic with historical exhibition of the area
- Collaboration with Somer Housing Trust team throughout the consultation

Arts Project Participation Targets

- ✓ At least 75% of residents participated in some way
- ✓ Participants included both adults and children
- ✓ Particular focus on involving men in consultation and artistic skills

Arts consultation sessions

The art project sessions were carried out with artist Jill Carter, a support arts worker, a specialist artist or Philippa Forsey, Arts in Health and Community Project Facilitator, **nesa**, and helped residents focus on:

1. Identifying the features that make Fosse Green unique and special – local environment, history, social fabric - and exploring how these could be used as themes/inspirations for public art.
2. Exploring the potential of public art to contribute to the overall renewal process particularly in terms of:
 - External painting schemes for both blocks
 - Signage
 - Entrance Features
 - Art works for installation on external walls and in particular on or in the retaining wall at Fosse Green
 - Improving railings for upper garden
 - new play features
3. Introducing residents to public art in other locations and identify what they like and don't like
4. Designing a brand image for use in the monthly newsletter and posters/leaflets about the renewal activities in Clandown
5. Introducing residents to a range of appropriate arts media to build interest and to broaden their vision of what might be possible
6. Documenting the project using photography

Arts Consultation results

The Blue Portakabin provided by Somer became the arts consultation base throughout the period and renamed 'the Blue House'. 75% of residents contributed to the process. Whilst efforts were made to programme engagement and arts activity at different times of the day and week to include all residents, and all events were timetabled and displayed well in

advance, on a sessional basis, attendance was often low attracting a few people at a time and people often turned up towards the end of a session. It became clear that residents had concerns that other basic needs were needed to be met, and that it takes time to build up trust and respect.

Residents that did take part in sessions did have an active interest in the area. The results of the opinions given by residents are included in the findings below. There will be an additional report from the Jill Carter with visual artworks and response to this consultation.

1. Identifying the features that make Fosse Green unique and special – local environment, history, social fabric - and exploring how these could be used as themes/inspirations for public art.

Through visual and documentary art work with Jill and other artists themes of nature have been explored including leaf mosaics, organic natural shapes in iron work, sculptural stonework and research into historical background of housing conditions during era of coal miners and mining (although there are not many families that have links with the mining industry now living in this area). An outcome has been that two local residents became involved in the research about Clandown area and have decided to hold an exhibition of their findings at the 'The Blue House' to share with residents the history of the area and encourage local people's interest in the Clandown's history. One resident has discovered that she has direct historical family links with the road where she now lives.

History and Context

Clandown today is located in the administrative area of Bath & North East Somerset Council and the parish of Norton Radstock. Clandown was originally on the route of the Roman Fosse way. It grew in size during the industrial period when coal mining in the area was the biggest employer. Clandown during the 1900's supported a village school, a bakery, shop, 2 pubs, 3 churches and numerous clubs including a football team, male voice choir and an events and entertainment committee. There are regular accounts of Clandown in the local archive at Radstock museum including press cuttings, photographs and personal accounts of living in the area. Since the decline of the coal mining industry in 1940's the area has felt the effects high unemployment. Gradually community venues have been sold for private use and in 2006 the local school was moved to the nearby area of Tynning, Radstock. Old mining cottages were knocked down in 1940's and it is in this area that Somer Community Housing Trust housing built flats in 1960's and renamed the area Fosse Green and Chapel Court. There are 24 flats in Fosse Green and 8 flats in Chapel Court. The properties have become perceived as an undesirable place to live. The homes are constructed on a sloping and terraced site with a relatively large amount of open space which is underused due to its topography and condition.

Local Neighbourhood Identity

The feedback from residents has included:

- **How to overcome district's (poor) reputation....** talk by residents of how to get other residents involved and make Fosse Green and Chapel Court a positive place. A residents' group was suggested by older residents. There are reported a lot of arguments in the street, with random vandalism, individuals and families not mixing from one end of the street to the other. Resentment between those who work and those who do not although seemed to cause conflict. Apathy towards investing energy into change when a core group of residents of always itinerant *"Can you help me find a loophole in the system to get my family out of here". "I would rather live in Snowhill". "For ten pounds a week more I could get my family a three bedroom semi-detached place with a garden"*. A consensus of opinion is that the area is not held in high regard in the district and as a result residents have no confidence in transformation, but some residents were more positive and pragmatic with suggestions – *'what about a questionnaire to each house about re-decision of structural changes and new look?'*
- **Social Meeting/Public Space:** Need a community centre (maybe the old school as a site). Could use the Portakabin and have a/some key holders. Some residents have expressed interest in developing a residents group but would like support from each other to further plans, also asked for support in submitting funding applications towards play equipment. However, there is an initial reluctance to be the leader of such a venture.

'Would like a communal seating area (4) A garden area for adults to sit communally. Seating area close to flats so folk can sit in the sun(3)'
- Ideas to runs events and fundraise to buy equipment for the area: bingo, a raffle each week to pay towards play stuff, a BBQ to raise funds. Residents could apply for national lottery funding - Would like support from Somer to fill in the application
- *'Don't film the street because of residents sitting on steps smoking, drinking and rowing'.*
- *'I am sorry to bring you down, I feel so despondant, no expectations now. Felt hopeful last year. There is no safety and nowhere for children to play'.*

- *'The portacabin has meant that 3 washing lines removed– can't hang washing out to dry...but one of the neighbours further down has swapped with me, so we have worked it out'*
- *'Bulldoze the street'*

Further comments go on to exemplify the residents need for safe and accessible family and living areas close to their flats.

2. Exploring the potential of public art to contribute to the overall renewal process, in particular:

External painting scheme:

Residents choices varied and it was suggested a generic questionnaire went out to all residents with colours that Somer could make available. In general the consensus was to paint the walls in one colour that was fresh. The mosaic artist has made suggestions that came from working with residents and Jill. (see Appendix: Clandown visiting professionals report). Residents comments include the following:

- *Cool to warm colours. Chalky, grey stone, light butterscotch, dark cream, fresh colours to warm terracotta. Pastel blue. Not too bright, not white or blue. Inviting and Homely. Paint flowers on. Could Somer send us a colour chart and get all the residents favourite choices. Something different and modern to reflect all ages. Paint the flats with patterns to camouflage it.*
- *Paint the turning area wall into a vista (3)*

Signage:

Safety has been of paramount importance to virtually all residents. This reflects the concern that parents of young children have with the road that runs alongside the flats. Opinions about the layout of the Clandown area have been clearly expressed by residents even though this was not asked for in the consultation. Comments are included below here to give the full range of opinions associated with signage and entrance.

- *Please Slow Down (4)*

- *5mph*
- *Speed bumps (2)*
- *Welcome sign (4) and a designed motif made with residents for entrance wall*
- *A sign on each side of the road (4)*

Entrance:

- *Trim Cherry tree (4) at entrance - it knocks on children's bedroom window.*
- *Cut down tree at entrance*
- *More trees at entrance.*
- *The entrance signs are covered. A sign needed on each side of the entrance.*
- *Gate the entrance to stop or slow down cars.*
- *It looks like a prison*

Improving visual appearance: Art works for installation in the area

- Mosaics for garden areas, balconies and walls
- A stone carving on the entrance wall of imagery and the name of the area
- *"Blacksmiths designs could look good on entrance wall and shed walls. Ironwork flower design by blacksmith, looked like the sun, it was catching the light (the light was shining back on the flats). How about a giant flower for the end wall."*
- Painting a scene/vista on wall that you see as you enter

- *Regarding the balconies, they are our gardens...could we be supplied with fixings and flower boxes. Supply all flats with troughs or window boxes and compost. Have plants trailing down and flowering all summer. Gardens for flats, hanging baskets and brackets for balconies*
- *We've come a long way since the art table (last summer's artistic intervention- Nesa influence/art activities)*
- *Children are happy the art is happening again*
- Change can be slow but beautiful

Fencing / Ironwork

The subject of railings and fencing came up repeatedly throughout sessions again in relation to the importance of safety and bringing up young children in the area. The railings in the area related to the gardens front and back, stairways and balconies. It was generally felt that the current railings looked 'prison like' and could be improved upon greatly. The iron worker gave structural feedback included in the appendix and would be keen to quote for replacement panels when the extent of the repair work is known.

- Repair fencing upper garden (6) - **Upper garden urgently needs fencing.** Dog proof fencing.
- *Need functional safe railings that children can't climb or get a foothold on and can't hang things off. Safety is paramount (5). Make railings higher I want my kids to be safe, another child fell down these concrete steps yesterday". Make sure new fittings can't be stolen. "Don't want cosmetic arty changes – why spend money on that, safety most important""Can we have balcony fencing higher?"*
- Use steel scrolls as a simple way of making railings look good. Like organic shapes – *railings too severe at the moment.* Swirly patterns of gold and silver. Not white railings, gold railings. Functional play aluminium railings such as at Tynings play park, was discussed with organic commissioned panels set between.
- It would be good to replace railings with a system that creates rhythm and musicality in the flow of form.

- Gates for gardens and repaired fence so children can play and play football. Replace broken mesh in fence panels.(5)
- *“Why can’t we have a small area on the front fenced for the safety of our children and where we can sit in the sunshine and watch them”.* Fencing around the front garden and a gate out of Fosse Green (5)

Retaining Wall:

We received news from Somer just before the end of the project that the results of the structural survey of the retaining wall opposite Fosse Green indicated that although there is no immediate danger of collapse, the engineers have recommended that it should be rebuilt with extra reinforcement. Somer were keen to hear residents views about how they do this with reference to replacing the storage sheds, improving access, perhaps using ramps instead of steps and improving the appearance of the new wall or ideas about designing a better wall,

This positive indicator of change is likely to have a big impact on the area. Comments made by residents before and after this knowledge became known have included:

- *Why don’t you just remove the entire retaining wall - dig a semi circle at ground level making a communal ground level recreational space. Push back entire walled area. Use soil from redevelopment to make a play mound, tunnels, shelter for children to play. Include seating and ramps for access to all. Bring gardens to ground level. Gardens closer to the flats. Put gardens where the road is, make the washing line area the road (5)*
- Make steps and ramps to gain access to upper level. Better access to get equipment up to the garden. (1 resident said he would take away left over stones). Earth from retaining wall could be made into mound tunnels and a feature (as at Trinity school).
- Bring sheds and stores closer to flats, the children asked for a store shed for street communal toys to be stored.
- *Why not move the road over - put small gardens or courtyards next to the flats. Swap the washing line area with the road area? Keep traffic and parking to the right hand side and small courtyard to left (nearest to flats) (6) Move road - put small gardens or courtyards next to the flats. Swap the washing line area with the road area. Keep traffic and parking to the right hand side and small courtyard to left. (6)*

Sheds/storage:

- Move the sheds and make a parking area to the right hand side of the street.
- Remove all sheds – provide steel lock-ups or sheds at the end of the street in a row, and fenced off. (3)
- Sheds not safe or secure – could have a decent lock up. Shed doors are more secure than the front doors.
- Better size sheds or a garage each
- Mould in the garages – not in good condition. Plants growing in sheds

New Play Features:

Most of the comments about play features have been accompanied by comments about proximity of play area to the flats in Fosse Green, the safety of children on the road and a place where children can play safely and parents can meet. These comments can be read in connection with designs for the retaining wall.

- *Children need space to run around - Why can't we have a small play area we can see from the house for younger kids, away from road/traffic?: (6)*
- New play equipment and Games- Climbing kit, play stuff so children can play and mums can talk. Outdoor noughts and crosses, chimes, hopscotch, sand pit, mud, goal post, netball hoop, golf, wendy house, slide, swings, trampoline, tent, road track, an outdoor swimming pool, a Jacuzzi, a slide, a pirate ship! A football goal post painted on a wall.
- Children's gardening area
- Develop school next door into a youth centre and
- Why can't a group of residents move the play equipment from the school into this area *"It is a crime to leave good kit there rotting, without anyone being able to access it"*.
- *We like the grass on the front side, it gets the sun, the rear is dark till 4.00 pm.*

- *Can we have somewhere to sit other than our steps? Eg two benches/tables on a green area for adults and children*

Other comments about the Access, Garden, Roadway and Architecture are included here:

Access

- *I would like independent access to my flat. I also ongoing health issues and I am concerned for the future, how I will access my home, as currently these steps/cars parking on pavement create difficulties. I don't like intruding past neighbours when there sitting on balcony steps. (Since you came and started talking to us I decided to copy next door's idea and have cleared away balcony recycling and installed planters & flowers.)*
- *We need disabled parking!*
- Walkway needs repair, both entrances front and back are difficult.
- Oldest resident asked if the stone walling area could be repaired to fence off access to lower pathway as people bring prams down pebbles rather than using the steps. Make an entrance to lower pathway of flats at the end.
- Steps to garden aren't level – (someone fell down)
- Steps need fencing
- Chapel Court: put a series of steps from community garden down side of garages to main road (3)

Garden:

- A face lift front and back of Fosse Green
- *There used to be tap up the top for water – would be good to have one there but in the past there was a lot of thieving and damage.*
- A wooden hut. A shelter would be great, said the kids.
- Undulating paths.

- Pizza oven on top garden
- A pond (not a good idea) – but gardener recommended that a dry pond or dew pond could work.
- Upper garden – an arch to replace the one which was wrecked one resident suggested one made of willow.
- Need a secure allotment area for the community and ensure the local area is not developed for commercial use. ‘Herb garden has been successful’ - Gardener
- Wild flower meadow. Hops in the community garden. Kids want a flower patch, park, pond, tree house. (They’d like to visit an amazing place with caves, a rope and stream).

Chapel Court communal garden area

- Could we have a line of trees to block the view down from Chapel Court to Fosse Green, which one resident felt would provide greater privacy “*they sit on their balconies and look down into our kitchens*”.
- “*Upper garden area is a waste of time....I would look after a small garden if it was close to my flat, but not up there*”.
- Higher level garden at Chapel Court could be used as allotments with the right sort of access set to one side.

Road:

It was expressed by many that a change in layout of the road would help living conditions and family life reducing stressful situations caused by the roadway and parking on a daily basis.

- In the original consultation process with Somer/Nesa, residents suggested that they “dreamt of living in an avenue”...In this consultation process, the same comment was repeated. A feeling of the road into Fosse Green being more open and welcoming. How about wild flowers, Virginia creeper off end of wall. Trees on right hand side of street.... “*Think of it like Fosse Avenue!*” Gardener: ‘Could put trees in pots but they would need maintenance’.
- Include a turning circle /and take away the turning circle “*Do not let cars half way down into street...restrict access, make them have one car per flat, visitors to park at entrance or at front, we want a car free zone*”.

- More parking and wider road.
- Stop vans parking along road. Parking just for residents.
- Remove Portakabin and make diagonal parking slots

Architecture

- Bigger balconies
- *Could we have gates on balconies to make safe for our young ones?*
- Use higher fencing
- Don't like plastic framework used on our balconies at Chapel Court.
- Remove individual stairs to balconies and make one big balcony *"how about in steel instead of concrete"*.
- Flats need balconies on South facing side – *"nice place to sit"*.
- Put washing lines mounted on balconies (suggested Brabantia model). Better washing lines – round ones. Washing lines on the balcony. Washing lines snap. If rotary driers were close to the balcony we wouldn't need washing lines. Children run through the washing at the moment. (5)
- Balcony extended "like a floating garden between balconies". One long balcony, not concrete but open mesh/ steel. Balconies with flower boxes with fixings. Supply all flats with troughs or window boxes and compost. Have plants trailing down and flowering all summer. Gardens for flats, hanging baskets and brackets for balconies
- *Would like no cracks in ceiling, pipes need fixing and damp removed from children's bedroom.*

3. Introducing residents to public art in other locations and identify what they like and don't like

Jill Carter and visiting artists brought and used examples of design and art in public spaces. It was hoped that a trip to a local forge might take place in the duration of this project but the time was not good for the iron worker due to summer shows.

4. Designing a brand image for use in the monthly newsletter and posters/leaflets about the renewal activities in Clandown

Jill documented each session, residents feedback and comment throughout. These images and text have been regularly fed back to Somer housing for use in the newsletter.

5. Introducing residents to a range of appropriate arts media to build interest and to broaden their vision of what might be possible

Skills in a wide range of art techniques and processes have been shared with residents throughout the project

6. The project has been widely documented using photography strengthening residents' sense of local identity and belonging

How the Arts Project Aims, Objectives and Outcomes have been met and

Identifying the positive and negative Impact of the Arts Project in Clandown Renewal Process

	Aims	Objectives	Outcomes	+ve and –ve impact of Arts Project
1	Strengthen residents' sense of local identity and belonging	<p>Identify the features that make Fosse Green unique and special – local environment, history, social fabric - and explore how these could be used as themes/inspirations for public art.</p> <p>Document the project using photography</p>	<p>Artist conversations, Creative sessions and interventions, Development of community room Portakabin named 'The Blue Room' Cake, Graffiti Wall Photographic storyboarding Scrap book Other creative sessions Residents valued in process of imminent change and concerns and feedback that came up through this process given to Somer Housing Trust</p> <p>Visit to Radstock Museum – researching history of the area – Residents hold Clandown historical exhibition and invite other residents to contribute and share information</p> <p>Link with Clandown residents association</p>	<p>+ve Positive Residents have had opportunities to influence decisions and have their say. Empowered the community. The Blue Room started to become a hub of activity for some Residents felt part of local community. Ownership and investment in consultation about shared communal spaces. Local democracy Valued those involved The artist built trust</p> <p>-ve Negative No control of renewal process led to negative feedback. Lack of choice Conflict amongst residents Time/funding restraint on artist availability on project. Some residents didn't participate</p>
2	Engage residents in the renewal process	Introduce residents to a range of appropriate arts media to build interest and to broaden their vision of what might be possible	<p>Workshops in daytime, evenings and weekends to include adults, parents at home, after school with children and early evening with people who work. Involvement and development of creative skills and sharing of ideas in the above.</p>	<p>+ve Positive Neighbours working together Getting to know others, bringing different residents together. Participatory arts sessions create unity and a sense of belonging. Creating a sense of ownership and respect of space through expressing ideas</p>

				<p>and concerns about the area. Opportunities for socializing, bringing people together. Reducing social isolation Portacabin a place for community activities</p> <p>-ve Negative Residents need encouragement to use communal spaces and portakabin Sense of mistrust and fear perhaps restrains people from participating.</p>
3	<p>Improve the visual appearance of Fosse Green and Chapel Court</p>	<p>Explore the potential of public art to contribute to the overall renewal process particularly in terms of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. External painting schemes for both blocks 2. Signage 3. Entrance Features 4. Improving railings for upper garden 5. Art works for installation on external walls and in particular on or in the retaining wall at Fosse Green 6. new play features <p>Introduce residents to public art in other locations and identify what they like and don't like</p>	<p>Photographs, case studies, Recording discussions, sharing of and development of ideas.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Working with colour palettes, Involving and recording residents in design and creative designs for external walls. 2. Sessions on signage - with stone carver. 3. Entrance features- with stone carver. 4. Sessions with iron worker 5. Sessions with mosaicist 6. Sessions with Jill Carter <p>Public art works around the country introduced by all artists</p>	<p>+ve Positive Talking about access to green and shared space – increasing opportunities. Having a relaxing space Planning for mixed and future generations.</p> <p>Negative Potential noise from residents groups Community conflict of ideas</p>
4	<p>Increase creativity, skills and social</p>		<p>All of the above creative sessions with specialist art forms and creative sessions with Jill Carter, support workers and Philippa Forsey</p>	<p>+ve Positive Increasing social networks Promoting trust in the local environment Engaging residents in a range of arts</p>

	networking			activities suitable for different age groups and abilities. Arts activity encouraged involvement from a broad base of residents
5	Create a more positive image for the area	Design a brand image for use in the monthly newsletter and posters/leaflets about the renewal activities in Clandown	Residents contribution/ artwork and comments fed into regular newsletter updates. Supported growth of residents group. Supported resident initiatives: use of portacabin for community groups.	+ve Positive Giving the residents a voice Using art s as a positive expression rather than repress ideas. Rediscovering historical links with past and a sense of pride in the area.
6	Make the area feel welcoming, friendly and vibrant to residents and visitors	As above	Clandown brand image developed through creative sessions with Jill Carter. Ideas for entrance artwork, iron work on railings on garden and balconies. Sculptural and mosaic ideas for garden landscape and buildings. Architectural comments recorded Events: Historical exhibition of findings from Radstock Museum A big community picnic A2 poster summary of ideas drawn together from sessions held at Clandown and reflected back to residents as a summary of resident's ideas.	+ve Positive Resident artist friendly, approachable and adopted by some residents as representing a positive change in the area. Artist encouraged trusting relationship with residents supporting them to contribute positively to their area. Bringing a sense of change and support to the residents. New ideas and concepts explored in and through art work. New approaches and ways of thinking about living space explored through art works. Housing Officer said she didn't like coming to the area before nesa was involved and now feels welcome in Clandown -ve Negative

Conclusion and Recommendations:

Following the arts consultation it is clear that communal spaces are currently underused by the community for a variety of reasons including, access, general state of safety for young children, lack of appealing or appropriate features and

equipment for a range of different age groups, young and old, to enjoy. Any projects taken forward must address this lack of interest in open spaces and look to encourage increased use and ownership of communal space through continued participation in activities such as gardening, renewal process, social engagement, specifics of design and making opportunities in design features.

The external aspects to Fosse Green and Chapel Court lack incentives for communal meeting spaces – benches, litter bins, safe parameters for children to play in. If accessibility was considered in the renewal process this might attract the older and younger residents with more involvement

- Continue to involve residents in consultation and the renewal process. Opportunities to get involved - Engagement with residents/community ongoing throughout renewal process. Also write/send questionnaires to residents to perhaps invite a core group who would agree to sign up to the process of creative engagement to explore ways to positively respond to the transitional phase and build neighbourly community. To allow residents to direct outcomes of creative change.
- Since the involvement of nesa and positive engagement the feedback is more positive and the Somer relationship with residents has come a long way. Somer Housing Trust are forward thinking in using the arts within change in social situations and have enabled residents to positively contribute and feel more in control of their situations through working with socially engaged arts practice.
- Provide good information and promotion of awareness about opportunities to participate in resident/community activities. Consider equal opportunities including hard to reach residents and those with access problems. Some residents have expressed that they don't feel heard. For many residents the opportunity to express their views combined with engagement in positive activity enables them to contribute in new and creative ways and find appreciation of some positive aspects of their community.
- This project has enabled people to think about things that are important to them and affect their well-being. The artists and support artists have enabled residents to be involved in decision making, given opportunities to learn new skills and meet new people, feel safe and comfortable, be able to get information, advice and support from experienced artists and Somer staff.

“Well-being is more than just happiness. As well as feeling satisfied and happy, well-being means developing as a person, being fulfilled, and making a contribution to the community”.

- Engage interested residents in furthering their ideas e.g. developing a residents or fundraising group, a history group? Having a valued role – provide training.

- Opportunities for socialising and reducing isolation, creating a sense of unity and belonging. The Portakabin a place for community activities. Continue engaging residents in a range of activities including arts activities suitable for different age groups and abilities and integrated activity to break down social barriers.
- Involve volunteers, community champions, youth and older people – learning from each other, passing of knowledge – recognising individual skills.
- Need to enhance community areas.
- Support sponsorship/funding applications to develop resident projects e.g. play equipment.
- Involve residents and Somer staff in a Mental Wellbeing Impact Assessment which would help determine some of the most important issues for residents and look at the impact the communal spaces and renewal project will have on these aspects. The Mental Well-being Impact Assessment was developed using the 1997 Health Education Authority definition of mental health and well-being: “*..the emotional and spiritual resilience which enables us to survive pain, disappointment and sadness. It is a fundamental belief in one’s own and others dignity and worth*” (Health Education Authority, 1997. Put simply our mental well-being is about how we think and feel.

Project Ideas and Feasibility

If the renewal process is delivered in a series of phases that build trust among residents and establish a group that takes ownership of developments in the renewal process nesa would like to work alongside this process at relevant stages of delivery maintaining and developing aspects of design and involvement..

Ideas for extending the arts project include:

- Continue to work with residents to make physical changes and improvements to the space through gardening and arts projects.
- Develop relationship with artist(s) and creative processes and skills over a longer period of time and through the journey of transition
- Encourage residents to take ownership of communal space through maintenance of communal spaces
- Make bird boxes, planting containers, window boxes, visual art displays for walls

- Make signage
- Make seating areas with public art e.g. mosaics or stone carving.
- Link with local college or voluntary groups for skills teaching in brick laying for bench making, landscaping (BTCV) and gardening (Permaculture)
- Design and decorate raised gardening beds
- Focus on development of play areas with parents and children
- Introduce further art forms as projects develop including stone calligraphy, wood sculpture, fused glass
- Develop reflective, expressive arts through prose, writing, poetry, digital art linked to history project.
- Develop an Arts Council bid to run alongside the renewal process
- Develop activities outside such as play activities, dance, drama, yoga, sports activities delivered in the garden communal space. Support community residents in training and new skills to run/organise activities.
- Nesa can deliver a Mental Wellbeing Impact Assessment with residents and Somer staff.

Delivery

The project will be planned and implemented in conjunction with Somer Housing who will continue to work with the community

Contact details

This report was written by Philippa Forsey, Arts in Health and Community Project Facilitator for nesa, May 2009

nesa works with partners, artists and communities to develop and deliver high quality creative projects, using participation in the arts to understand, learn, transform and empower.

Our projects use the arts as a tool to engage local people in creative activities to

- gain confidence and learn new skills
- make a positive contribution
- improve their health and wellbeing
- bring communities together
- promote and celebrate diversity and inclusion

We work in partnership with local councils, housing associations, schools, community groups, youth groups, voluntary organisations, the National Health Service (NHS), Primary Care Trust, regeneration agencies and other arts organisations. By involving a wide range of local stakeholders, we work to create a sense of community ownership of our projects that will ensure the impact is long lasting.

The nesa team offers a wide range of skills and experience including community development, design solutions and consultation. Our team specialises in youth work, arts and health, neighbourhood renewal, arts and health, marketing and fundraising.

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"nesa develops and delivers quality creative projects with communities, enabling positive change"

Appendices

- Clandown Renewal visiting professionals Report
- Jill Carter report
- Budget