

Karbon Homes' Foundation Grant to St. Peter's Neighbourhood Association

Summer 2021



Background

The Grant was to support volunteer projects over the Summer. Its goals:

- To reduce social isolation by encouraging neighbours to participate in shared projects specific to their own streets.
- To improve relationships between volunteers, and other neighbours not taking part.
- For as many people as possible to see and enjoy the changes.
- To build on previous years' achievements, work and funding.



The Fish with Two Heads' makeover

The wooden sculpture and its garden had been rescued and restored from neglect and overgrowth five years previously by volunteers. It had been created twenty-five years before then by Byker Primary and displayed at the Gateshead National Garden Festival 1990.

Since 2016, the sculpture had been repaired and repainted on a piecemeal basis. The funding allowed the volunteer group to purchase fillers and paint to allow them to undertake a much-needed total makeover, and supplementary new planting.

The volunteers are confident that their work this summer will stand the neighbourhood's sculpture in good stead for at least a further five years.



Dobson Crescent & Village Green New Planting

Dobson Crescent is the main road in St. Peter's. It is adjacent to the Village Green.

Over the past three years resident volunteers and teenage volunteers from across the City, pursuing various national citizenship awards, have cut back what was an overgrown area. Eventually the Village Green was revealed, cultivated, tendered and planted.

The funding allowed resident volunteers to choose new maturing plants and shrubs that otherwise would have been too costly. These were chosen to add distinctive shapes and colours to the area against the background of the surviving original plants, trees and shrubs.



St. Peter's Wharf New Planting

This building houses both apartments and workplaces. An upper-level walkway last year received five islands of pots donated by residents and businesses at St. Peter's Wharf. These were planted with mainly summer flowering annuals. Residents, people who worked there and local people were all taken aback by the difference this planting made. Especially in creating a more upbeat mood during the months of COVID-19 Pandemic.

The funding this summer allowed volunteers to again plant out the pots. This time around with an emphasis on perennial shrubs, herbs and pollinator perennials.



Churchill Mews' New Fence

The demolition of the Anglo-Swedish Warehouse adjacent to the homes here had for seven years left behind a temporary, unattractive and inadequate fence.

The residents decided to replace this with a new fence in keeping with the surviving developer fencing. Five years before, Newcastle City Council had given permission for them to do this.

The volunteer fencers, including one from Trinity Courtyard, worked together to remove the previous fence and installed the new one over one morning. There are volunteer plans to paint the new timber. In time the trellis might be used to support new planting.



Merchants' Wharf New Planting

Merchants Wharf is a courtyard of 45 homes, with planting areas at the centre. Until recent years, it was felt that the garden aspect of the courtyard was being overshadowed by car parking.

Then, the Council had Skills Mill replace the then dilapidated raised central bed with a new one. Residents donated a mix of plants and pots and started a new courtyard garden that can be enjoyed for its greenery and colour.

The Foundation's help allowed resident volunteers here to choose and plant new plants for 2021, whilst sustaining beds, pots and plants from previous years.



Chandlers' Quay New Planting

Chandlers Quay sits right on the Tyne. However, its weather-exposed position does not deter the volunteer residents there. Foundation funding allowed them to purchase annuals to supplement recently-established Hebe shrubs planted last year.

The four containers on the Quay are four of twenty-five that St. Peter's Neighbourhood Association working with Newcastle City Council saved from being scrapped three years ago. The containers are heavy-weight cast iron litter bins, part of the original suite of street furniture when the estate was new.



Thank you from St. Peter's and our bees too

Together, over the summer of individual projects we got at least forty people out of their homes working and talking with each other. Whilst those who could not participate were able to see and enjoy just as much the changes achieved.

St. Peter's is more attractive for what has been achieved with these projects. Without the Grant none of these changes would have happened. And for this we thank the Foundation.

With a greater and popular awareness of pollinator plants, the bee population of St. Peter's has also enjoyed benefits from the Grant. This summer's influx of new pollinator plants has brought many more bees into St. Peter's.

