

‘Your Neighbourhood’: Asset-based Community Development in Action

This is a summary of the first year of ‘Your Neighbourhood’. Two Community Builders worked with residents across South Ward to increase community participation and develop activities based on what local people want to do.

“the project is an exceptional idea... it’s mostly about turning over control of something to a community” (Community Builder)

Your Neighbourhood is supported by North Somerset Council and local partners. They are enthusiastic about the project, keen to see it develop and hopeful it will support the health and wellbeing of local residents. Your Neighbourhood was delivered by Curo from February 2015 to March 2016.

A Residents Funding Panel oversaw the distribution of a Community Budget of £4,500. 3 panel meetings were held and 27 applications were reviewed. 22 initiatives received funding ranging from £145 to £300.

Residents thought applying for funding was easy, even if they had never applied for any kind of funding before. The Community Builders also supported residents to develop their ideas and make useful links within the community.

Here are some examples of what has been funded so far:

- ‘Shabby2Chic’ - a community enterprise which upcycles unwanted materials into unique gifts were helped to get off the ground.
- Coniston Green Gardeners got new tools so more volunteers can get involved.
- ‘Our Way Our Say’ received a portable cooker for healthy cooking demonstrations with young people.
- Food and art materials were provided for a summer holiday activity session for local families.
- Residents were funded to attend ‘Forest School’.



Forest school

“It was really easy...within a week the form and everything was done... two weeks later the funding arrived.” (Resident)

“it’s really good that’ I’ve got people sort of on my side to get it rolling” (Resident)



Shabby2Chic



Coniston Green Gardeners



Summer activities

- Materials were bought to support a photography exhibition which showcased the skills of local individuals and highlighted positive aspects of life on South Ward. More exhibitions are planned and these are helping to challenge negative perceptions of the area which residents feel are outdated.
- A resident received funding to help him set up a studio for an online community radio station. The radio station went live in March 2016 and local artists have featured in live performances.
- A 'Tea Dance' was funded to celebrate diversity and bring the community together.



Your Neighbourhood has helped residents to develop skills including leadership, technical and social skills, and many have become more confident in their own abilities.

Residents have been supported to build on their own interests and passions to provide opportunities for community involvement.

Some residents now have a greater role in the community and many are proud of the local area and proud to be involved in Your Neighbourhood.

Building skills, confidence, community involvement and pride in the local area can positively impact individual feelings of well-being. In the longer-term this is likely to support good physical health too.

What next? The good work will continue!

Beyond March 2016 Your Neighbourhood will be jointly delivered by Alliance Homes and the For All Healthy Living Centre. A community budget of £4,500 is available for distribution in 2016/17.

To find out more about the project or to get involved please contact Helen Wheelock on helen.wheelock@alliancehomes.org.uk

For more information about the evaluation findings please contact emily.vandeventer@nhs.net

"...it brings out lifestyle abilities in people they didn't know were there, and it's got to be said, an ability to lead for many people. It puts them in a position where their confidence grows no end" (Resident)

"...it's actually people contributing, getting involved, it's a vibrant community". (Resident)

"I'm proud to be part of this, very proud". (Resident)

