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Stevenage Borough Council

Blossoming Haven: Transforming an unused space into a community garden oasis

Recognising its potential as a vibrant community space, residents have come together with a shared mission: to rejuvenate an area of Coventry Close, a residential street in the heart of Stevenage, into a welcoming gathering area with a flourishing garden, ripe with fruit trees, vegetable plots, and bulbs providing early spring flowers.

The focus has been on creating an inviting community space that encourages social interaction, outdoor activities, and a sense of belonging whilst also being beneficial for local wildlife and pollinators, planted with a changing climate in mind.

Residents were keen to have a garden area where they could grow fresh fruit and vegetables, fostering sustainability and healthy living and; enhance the aesthetic appeal of the space. For the younger generation, it also provides a safe and engaging environment to play whilst learning about gardening and connecting with nature.

The transformation of this space was achieved by working collaboratively with residents, ward councillors and local social enterprise Waste Not Want Not. This is a Kings Award winning organisation that uses horticulture as a therapeutic tool to help people with mental health issues or those recovering from a life crisis. Additional funding for the project was provided by Stevenage Borough Council's Climate Change Community Funds.



Coventry Close before works

Volunteers have been recruited from the community to help with garden maintenance, such as planting, watering, weeding, and harvesting. This also includes ongoing support from Waste Not Want Not and the local Community Pay Back Service.



Coventry Close after works

Through these collaborative efforts, the revitalised space holds the potential of developing into a thriving community hub and garden. It's a space for everyone in Coventry Close to enjoy along with their family and friends. By fostering a sense of ownership, the project will create a lasting legacy that will enrich the lives of residents and strengthen the fabric of the community.

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