

# WEST LEEDS 2005-06

## Groundwork Leeds Annual Report



***“MAKING THE WEST OF THE CITY A GREENER PLACE TO BE”***

---

## Summary of outputs 2005-06

This summary shows a brief overview of the projects worked on in the year 2005-06 by the Communities team in West Leeds

Trees planted	356
Land improved	9378
Children days(*)	103
Adult days	520
Schools (&)	6
Business' involved	2

(\* each person day is calculated as 6 hours of their time & these schools are only based on the land and communities teams not the education team)

Wedge	Number of projects
Inner West Leeds	14
Outer West Leeds	14
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>28</b>

(these figures are for both capital and development projects carried out over the time.)



**Leeds**  
CITY COUNCIL



**LEEDS WEST homes**

*"MAKING THE WEST OF THE CITY A GREENER PLACE TO BE"*

## LEEDS WEST HOMES AND AREA COMMITTEE PARTNERSHIP

Over the last few years our work in west Leeds would not have been as productive without the close working relationship we have with both Leeds West Homes and the Area Management Team. Both organisations have provided support and advice on a wide range of topics which has allowed us to fulfil so many goals in the area.

The last few months have provided a number of projects from many different sources which have enabled us to work in areas that we may not have reached before. The coverage of the west wedge has increased dramatically in the last 18 months, from only working in the SRB areas of the Wythers and Broadleas to now covering the majority of the wedge and all of the SOA areas. Environmental projects have led to much community involvement. This would not have been possible without the backing of Leeds West Homes and Area Management Teams.



This report details the projects delivered this year along with development initiatives and other significant events over the year.



*"MAKING THE WEST OF THE CITY A GREENER PLACE TO BE"*



# Inner West Leeds



Leeds  
CITY COUNCIL

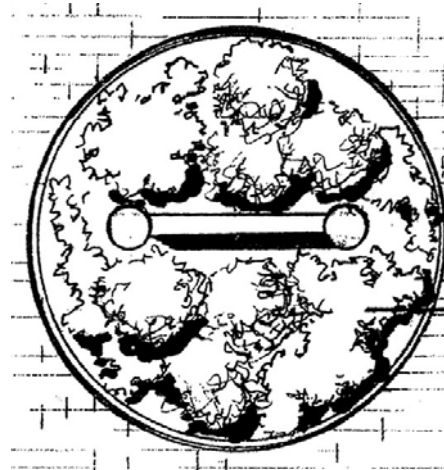


LEEDS WEST homes

*“MAKING THE WEST OF THE CITY A GREENER PLACE TO BE”*

## Fairfields Estate Entrance

This project was initiated by the local residents group to give a defined space to lead into their estate. The group subsequently ordered an artistic feature through their own funds, this was hoped to become the centrepiece of the whole feature. This is when we were asked to look at the surrounding parts of the site. As can be seen from the plans the proposals are to create an area surrounding the art feature with a seating area and planting beds. The incorporation of the surrounding trees will define the space well and make the estate entrance a welcoming area. The plans have been discussed in detail with the Fairfields Improvement Group, which has had an input on to the proposals, the group consists of Leeds West Homes, local ward councillors, residents group and the architects doing the changes to the whole estate. They are all in agreement that the changes would be beneficial.



The recently finished works have been very successful by combining the statue which was purchased by the Fairfield residents group, and the surrounding works carried out on their behalf by Groundwork. The entrance to the estate is now welcoming and the holding hands of the statues signify the unity on the estate by the residents to make it a better place to live. The scheme has had the full support of the Leeds West Homes chaired Fairfield Improvement group, (FIG), which promotes multi-agency working on the estate. The community centre will be useable again in the very near future; the residents will be able to use the work they have done on the entrance way to drive their future projects forward. The community centre has been missed and it will provide a base for the group to do their new projects.

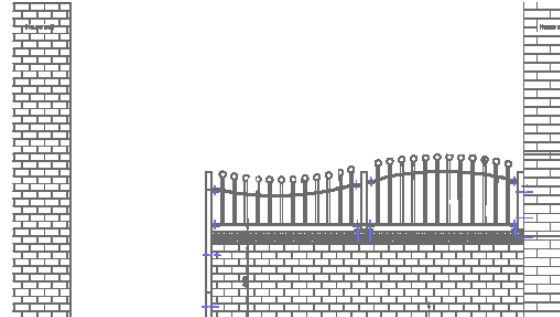


*"MAKING THE WEST OF THE CITY A GREENER PLACE TO BE"*

# Armley Binyards



The original plans were to run this scheme in the very successful mould of Armley Community Environmentalists (ACE). This model uses local people to get active in their local surroundings and do all of the works on the yard themselves. As the focus of the local residents groups in the aviaries and cedars was slightly different this model was not useable. So the alternative method we used was to fund the first phase and the second phase would include the community input.



In collaboration with West Leeds Healthy Living Network, Leeds West Homes and BTCV the binyards project hopes to make use of the unusable space currently filled with rubbish etc. to convert them into a community space. 11 yards are to be improved. This included four in the Aviaries and seven in the Cedars. The yards that were chosen were all managed by Leeds West Homes which was advantageous for both funding, maintenance, and early action.

The first phase of the works has seen the front walls dropped and blue brick put on top and the construction of metal fencing. This change will mean the whole yard can be seen, this improved visibility will help the residents to keep an eye on their local environment. In the past gates have been put on binyard improvements such as these, in this case it was decided that as the yards have been mostly open for some-time now the extra view would be obscured by a gate. It is hoped in the year 06-07 to develop this scheme further in both of these estates but also in more areas in west Leeds.





## Piggeries—Phase 2



The first phase of the works was completed last year. This included pathways and fencing of the site, the second phase gave more features to the site and a focus for the grassed area. Using the remaining funds the group had from BTCV People's Places, it was decided to enhance the planting started in the first phase with additional hedging and wild flower area. Goal ends have also been installed to give focus to the area and provide a much needed facility for the local children. All works have been carried out with the help of the Rossfield Tenants and Residents Association.

people's places  
AWARD SCHEME



## Victoria Park opening

The opening ceremony saw the celebration of the incredible amount of work carried out by the group to deliver this project. The park was opened by Wyn Griffiths from the Victoria Park Neighbourhood Watch Group with support from John Battle MP. The event was attended by local residents, local councillors, representatives for the funders (BTCV) and many agency staff who have had an input, such as west Leeds Healthy Living Network.



people's places  
AWARD SCHEME

*"MAKING THE WEST OF THE CITY A GREENER PLACE TO BE"*

# Butts Mount



The project was instigated by a local ward councillor due to community concerns about the potential risk of housing development on the site at the junction of Butts Mount and AGP. The land itself has been used for children's' football and sports for some time, but the downside is the fly tipping and burning of waste.

Initial consultations led to the conclusion that the main issue on the site were that footballs were going onto the road and also into peoples gardens. Due to the sites proximity to the road it would be better to restrict the chance of children running in to the road. To solve this, the first proposals were incorporating fencing and trees around a football area. This provided features that were mentioned in the consultations. Unfortunately, it did not fulfil the local residents ideas for the site,



(Original Plans)

The current plan is much more simple allowing for informal play for younger children but no scope for football to be played. With trees and slopes being the main features on the site the space available to play football is reduced. This is the design/ decision of the local residents through a second consultation exercise. The hope is to use this site for informal play with the local areas of Jaylee fields as the sports area. The youth service are active in the area and will be pro active in the future to promote creative use of the local young peoples time  
The plans have been approved by the residents and will be moved on in the coming weeks.



**Leeds**  
CITY COUNCIL



## WIG

This group is run by LWH and the PCT, its focus is to act as a conduit for working in the Wythers area. The group covers all aspects of the current input in the estate from statutory organisations to Voluntary and public sector agencies. As the group is only embryonic, work is still just beginning but some of the projects being looked at are:



Community clean ups  
school projects,  
local residents training  
youth provisions.

Potential greenspace improvement projects involving community input are also being discussed



## FIG

The much more established FIG group has been very successful this year, supporting initiatives such as Fairfield estate entrance and helping Leeds West Homes develop their schemes on the estate. The group encourages input by local residents to have their say on the extensive works going on throughout the estate. The initiatives being looked at presently are a school project on land adjacent to the local Primary School, the adjacent site to the entrance feature is being investigated with the potential of two others to be identified with support from all agencies.



# ACRT—Armley Common Rights Trust

ACRT has been in existence for more than 100 years managing six pieces of land in Armley. The land is owned by the people of Armley and have been important green-spaces for some time.

In the last eighteen months, the group has come on leaps and bounds, increasing in support and changes of people on board. With lots of help from WLHLN the internal workings have been improved, Groundwork Leeds has helped on the land side of things



by supporting clean up days which have been more and more frequent in recent months. Our partnership working allowed us to use the land to educate some young people on the Groundwork Leeds Motiv8 programme doing tree work and some clearance this work led to them gaining skills locally that they wouldn't normally be able to. As the sites are so different, they allow for more scope than a single site would do.

The coming year has much potential as three clean-up activity days are planned concentrating on Charlie Cake Park to make an impact in a short space of time. If these are as successful as past activities, the year is looking bright and productive, with future partnering potential more ideas can be expected.

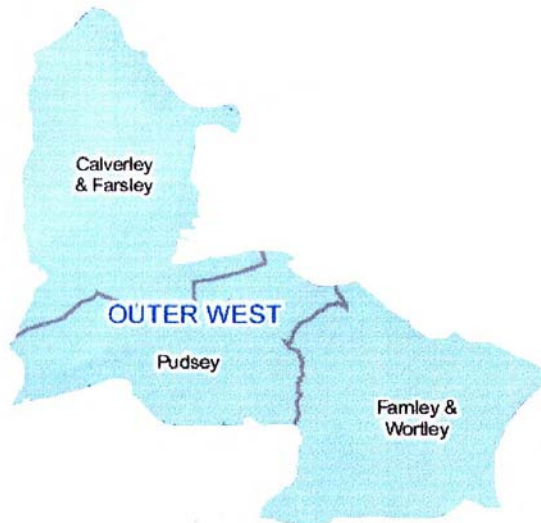
With the friends of Armley Common rights Trust involved in the activity days the amount of work that is achievable on the sites is vast. Once the foundation works have been completed at Charlie Cake Park it can become the flag ship site and the other areas can be brought to a similar standard. As each of the sites poses different problems each needs a different focus.

For example Hill top's priority is the thinning of the plantation at the front of the site. Armley moor is more about the grass cutting and litter. The plan for the next meeting of the Friends Of Group is to prioritise items on each site to maximise the impact on each session.



*"MAKING THE WEST OF THE CITY A GREENER PLACE TO BE"*

# Outer West Leeds



**Leeds**  
CITY COUNCIL



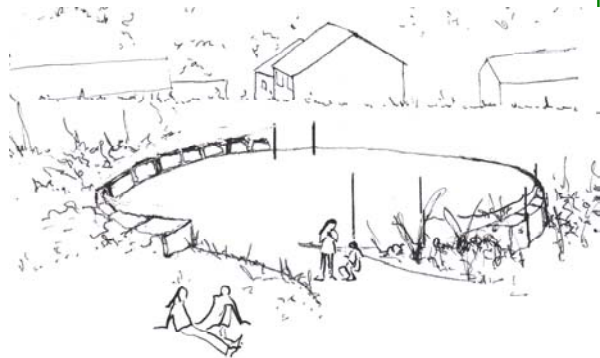
**LEEDS WEST homes**

*"MAKING THE WEST OF THE CITY A GREENER PLACE TO BE"*



# Gamble Hill Greenspace

The proposal was to create a community space which can be used by both the youth and the residents of the estate, to play in and relax respectively. There are currently limited facilities on the estate which has led to the problems currently being faced. The residents group have been consulted along with the properties bordering the site and also the youth. For the site to be used effectively all of the groups need to have elements that appeal to them without taking anything away from the other elements of the scheme.



The project is designed for use by all in the community, the younger people have the 'goal ends' and the adults have seating to appreciate the views over Post Hill

The residents group is very active on the estate and have this site as their flagship project but they have many other 'irons in the fire', so to speak. The Tannery project has been running for sometime and looks at the use of an area of woodland that has issues around flytipping and

motorbikes. The success of the Greenspace project has spurred the group on to push the tannery project forward. Working with the local school, the residents group have funded and supported a sensory garden and also an allotment plot. With all of this work going on they have had tremendous support from the local ward councillors and also Leeds West Homes which have given much to the initiatives. If the last year is anything to go by, the next one should be productive for the estate, leading to many wide ranging projects involving many agencies and other groups.



# Farfield Greenspace

The Farfield estate has a number of ASB issues and a lack of useable Greenspace. This project was conceived to be a community resource to be used by both young and old to give a sense of community spirit to the estate. The project is supported by Leeds West Homes and the land owner (Parks & Countryside) who both see it as a useful area for everyone in the surrounding estate.



The main features of the improvements are focused to encourage use of all parts of the greenspace, although still providing access to the football pitches to the north of the site. Fencing of the site will enable safe play with respect to the road. Informal seating areas incorporating stone features mean that there are less maintenance heavy elements to look after such as metal seats, yet still providing a resting place for mothers watching their children. Maintenance gates and access controls will permit the grass to be cut but prohibit easy access for motorbikes which have been causing a nuisance with noise and dust for some time. By limiting the incidences of inappropriate motorbike activity this should promote more legitimate use of the site in the future



Overall once completed the Farfield Greenspace will act as both a community space and also as a safe place for children to play. There are major issues on the estate regarding parking at school times. When the fencing is in place It will help the grass to recover and be an integral part of the scheme. Once Leeds West Homes complete their works at the adjacent garages site to improve the surfacing, this will set aside more parking space for the busy times of 9.00am and 3.00pm. This project will hopefully solve some problems and lead to progress on others, and will build on initiatives running at the moment with the young people on the estate through Barnardo's and Leeds City Council Youth Service.



# Farnley

Farnley is an area that covers rural and urban environments and from deprivation to affluence. It has vast amounts of greenspace, unfortunately not all of it is usable by residents. Due to the topography there are not many spaces which are useable by the community. The slopes also pose a problem with the bin collections, only bags are used and this leads to litter blowing round the estate when the bags get damaged. The litter then collects in many of the communal greenspaces. The ward councillors supported the recent clean ups on the Bawns Estate with school children from Cobden Primary, Ryecroft Primary and Lawns Park. The children had great fun actively making a difference to the space around where they live. Together with the main community clean up on the Saturday a big impact was made.



The Saturday clean-up had eight skips placed on the estate with local residents helping Groundwork Leeds, the Area Management Team and Leeds West Homes litter pick the area.

In Outer West the Area Management Team are running the LAMP which formulates the strategic plan of initiatives on the estate. The newly formed residents group which is supported by Leeds West Homes means the local residents can have a direct involvement in improving their local environment. The residents group has highlighted a need for an area for football on the estate. This is the main priority for the next six months, and will be initiated when the group are fully established.



**Leeds**  
CITY COUNCIL



# Heights / Farrowes / Greenthorpes

The Residents Group has been running for some time now, concentrating on numerous issues on the estate. In the last few months they have identified three pieces of land on the estate that would, if improved, provide much needed facilities for their community.



Site 1: - Rear of shops on Heights Drive

A small piece of land next to houses. The group would like to utilise the site as a park for younger children. Groundwork Leeds advised that this would potentially become a problem due to its proximity to the houses. That said, an informal space with stones and trees would potentially improve the aesthetics of the site but would not necessarily give the appropriate facilities

that were originally identified. By the group

Site 2: - Between the heights estate and the Poplars estate

This site is next to the railway line. It is a very large site running at the back of a number of privately owned and Leeds West Homes managed properties. The site has lots of development potential as a green corridor with trees and shrubs encouraging wildlife being a possibility. The residents group were hoping that the area could be used to occupy older children. A skate park was hoped for, but again, due to its proximity to houses, this idea would not be appropriate due to the increased noise levels that a skate park would produce. The local people continue to consider alternative improvements.



Site 3: - Within the grounds West Leeds High School

This is a long term project on a piece of land given to the estate by the local owner. The site is currently within the fence of the local school, so lots of negotiations are required to drive this forward.



All of the projects are being looked at in detail in the coming months to deliver schemes that are both beneficial and non-intrusive.

# Cabbage Hill Consultations

The site locally known as Cabbage Hill has been the subject of much debate between Cllrs and the local residents for sometime now. Due to its nature as a land fill site there have been rumours of its ultimate end use. This is the reason for the recent consultations, which will hopefully enable future meetings of the Friends of Cabbage Hill group to be informed and focused on the realistic options for the site



It became clear from the consultations that the residents felt there was a need for the site to be used for the whole community, and possibly more provision for youths as some were currently misusing the site. There was also the question of maintenance, as some reported issues with motorbikes and fly tipping. Many of the residents were happy to talk to Groundwork about the above site, and had many ideas about how the area should be used. The majority of residents also shared the same concerns and had issues with motor-

bikes accessing the area, making it unsafe for youngsters and making the land look messy and dirty. Most of the residents were happy to have the site become a community area for local people. They were also interested with regaining or developing links with other communities and footpaths that had been lost in recent years.

Another positive from the consultations is the number of people who are interested in the Friends Of Group (51) which is 40% of the people who responded. This is a potentially good group to start working with in the near future. Due to the nature of the landownership of the site it may be some time before a project can go ahead but with the support of the local people it could be a pleasant area for all to use not just a motorbike track.





# WLEN — Future



This year has been one of transition for the network, going from a group which talked about our work, to an active part of environmental projects in west Leeds.

As stated in the West Leeds binyards sheet, the plans were to run all of the binyards on a partnership basis. This was not possible but due to the nature of the second phase of the scheme all of the partners can be involved.

Work has also continued with ACRT, doing work on Charlie Cake Park and hill top. The group's policies have also been updated to run in parallel with the charity commissions guidelines.



The principle this year was a recycling seminar held at Whingate Methodist church. It was designed to have 2 parts to it. The talk by Patricia Ongonbur of the Leeds City Council strategic recycling plans. The other part focused on where West Leeds Environmental Network should be heading in relation to the District Partnership

Action Plans but also with regards to local groups we are working with. through a number of activities involving local residents the network has refocused in light of the suggestions



The focus of the group for the first 6 months of the new year is to develop and deliver some recycling schemes. The first one being undertaken is looking at the lack of recycling facilities in high rise flats such as Burnsall court in Armley..



*“MAKING THE WEST OF THE CITY A GREENER PLACE TO BE”*



# Development Programmes

## **The Tannery:**

The tannery site is continuing to be investigated with regards a useable path across the site. Once land ownership and rights of way issues have been resolved the project can proceed.



## **West Leeds Gateway:**

This initiative is concentrating on the New Wortley area developing a plan of all sites thus giving a direction for regeneration in the area. The initiative is being run by the Area Management Team and we are looking to feed in to a number of the projects once it is up to speed.



## **Crimbles:**

This part of Pudsey predominantly houses elderly people and so a quiet environment is preferred. The major issue is with motorbikes on the site, it would be a good site to gate similar to Houghley Gill but the cost involved may mean that it is not a viable option. Alternatives are being looked at present to solve the problem.



## **Fawcett Lane/Way:**

This area of land has had a number of problems with it regarding fly-tipping and general neglect. The main improvements that can be made to the site are re-building the wall and an access control at the top to restrict tipping.



## **Southroyd Park:**

The site is next to a new housing development that has freed up some section 106 monies. The site is currently used as a thoroughfare which causes issues to the new housing development. Working with Chris Bolam from LCC development department in working out the details of the scheme. The sketch design for some improvements is fully costed and ready to be tendered



## Wedge wide

Some of the initiatives Groundwork Leeds has been involved in over the last year have meant the Trust can work in some areas not previously covered and work with people we wouldn't always get involved with. This has promoted some productive multi-agency work, which West Leeds has a reputation of being good at, to arrive at a common goal

### Operation Apollo:

Apollo is a high level multi-agency operation which aims to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour, reassure local residents and tackle all aspects of community safety. There are 6 operations each year and each operation lasts for around 3 days. Our input has involved cleanup days and leaflet drops. This helped enforce the message that the 'local environment' is very important to everyone



### West Leeds country Park and Green gateways:

This initiative is being run by LCC Parks & Countryside encompasses the whole of West Leeds including a number of areas we have been working in. The linking of such a vast amount of greenspace has to be good for all residents of the area. Groundwork Leeds has had preliminary talks with Douglas Louis regarding our input on a micro scale (as opposed to the macro scale of the whole scheme) to drive the local level greenways forward. This local input will bring the linkages to the green-spaces within housing estates rather than around them.



Groundwork Leeds also attends such events as the VCF Forum and the District Partnership events. These events are productive for networking between agencies who are doing similar work but they also provide an opportunity for access to different types of community group. For example at the VCF Forum there are groups that are more health focused which we can fit in to with events involving BTCV's Green Gym's and Walking Project or even WLEN.



# Acknowledgements

This year has been very successful from Groundwork Leeds' point of view but I wouldn't have been possible without some fantastic work on our behalf so special thanks have to go to:

Chris Coates—WLHLN  
John Preston—BTCV  
Mick Parker—Leeds West Homes  
Richard Britten Leeds West Homes  
Rebecca Boon—West Leeds AMT  
Sam Woodhead—West Leeds AMT  
Phil Staniforth—LCC Parks and Countryside

Obviously we have had tremendous support from all Local Ward Councillors.

There are countless others on the specific schemes that have been invaluable and thanks go out to you all, with hope we can work together again in the near future to deliver more innovative projects for the benefit of all in West Leeds

