

Cumberland Piazza Report 2019-2020

Introduction

I guess it goes without saying that it's been a strange year for a project whose primary aim is engaging the locals in community activities, but in spite of all the challenges we continue to make positive progress on the piazza.

In fact, lockdown saw numbers of people using the space increasing significantly, with some even describing it as a 'lifeline'.

Aims for 2020

- To continue maintenance of the space adding soil to planters and gravel to beds
- To continue to meet and talk with interested people while gardening in the space
- To adapt 'community gardening guidelines' according to responses from site users
- To support and facilitate locals with their ideas and proposals
- To write and share blog and social media posts about activities on site
- To contribute to and respond to results of HCCA public consultation survey
- To respond to the Covid situation in the safest and most productive way we can

Achievements

Maintenance

- Weeding sedum beds
- Engaging locals to help with watering
- Repainting over tagging and litter picking
- Ordering and installing a noticeboard
- Communicating with Bristol Waste and getting them to do more cleaning

Community engagement

About 200 people have been actively engaged in creative and maintenance activities at the piazza in the following ways:

- Via arts activities
- Meeting and talking with interested people while gardening in the space
- Writing, sharing and responding to blog and social media posts about activities and progress

Pre-Lockdown- December to March

During this time, we installed a new noticeboard and tidied the site. Just before lockdown we had a couple of community events during which we refreshed all the pillars that needed re-painting, began a new mural and maintained the planters about 30 people came and joined in the activities.

During Lockdown- March to July

No organised activities but use of the site increased as people were unable to go far. About 50 people a day were using the site within safe covid guidelines to relax, socialise and exercise.

We engaged locals in the following ways:

Water- approximately 15 people responded to calls for watering help and about 10 actually watered.

Activities- 10 local young people (21-25) joined in with the mural and planter making over the 2 hottest days of the year. Many people came up to talk to us, some even joined in.

Weeding- a couple of locals have been doing the odd bit of weeding but it's mostly been me as I've been getting the beds ready for the guidelines. I've tried to keep these informational and visual, rather than overly instructional as there's a lot of 'instruction' signs around at the moment. I'm really happy to adapt them based on response from the MC and piazza users.

Post Lockdown

Kids Summer Activities

Anna & Mhairi facilitated 6 days of pavement art activities for children of all ages with the aim of letting them have some creative fun following many months of limited opportunities. We had an average of 10 children on most days, apart from the 19th when it was raining all day with only Iris aged 7 and Quinn aged 3. Some children came more than once and Iris came to every session! Ages varied from 2-13. We had an average of 5 adults per day who joined in the art activities with the kids or conversed with us.

Over the 6 sessions we engaged 20 adults and 30 children.

Painting- Anna & Mhairi have begun painting some of the children's artwork throughout the site forming a 'trail' during September as a voluntary contribution. We are using photos of their work and creating the best design we can

Independent groups using the space

There are several exercise classes per week which are really well attended. The Saturday morning one uses the blocks as an 'outdoor gym'

Challenges overcome in 2020

Squatter- gently negotiating with a homeless person who was living in the disused toilets we store paints and tools in. Communications with BCC about safeguarding. Communications with Bristol Waste about sanitation and waste management after they had found appropriate accommodation

Covid- Being unable to plan and deliver community activities during lockdown.

Weed-killer- The sedum beds got sprayed again- not too badly but enough for the aggressive grasses to dominate and need removing. A local 7yr old has proposed yellow rattle wildflower seeds as a solution to combat aggressive grasses such as couch grass

Water- we had short periods of drought in April and June but we managed with the help of locals and the donation of an additional rain butt.

Please visit <https://artundertheflyover.com> for photographs and videos illustrating this work

Contact Anna Haydock-Willson anna@artwithinthecracks.org if you have further questions
Budget for financial year March 2019-2020

Item	Quantity	Expenditure	Invoice No.
Project Management (Inc design, planning,, commissioning, reports and finance)	41	1015	AHW0065 AHW0060 AHW0057 AHW0049 AHW0047 AHW0043 AHW0040
Community Engagement- includes events, artworks, communication, blogs and social media)	35	470	AHW0065 AHW0060 AHW0057 AHW0049 AHW0047 AHW0043 AHW0040
Maintenance (includes gardening, watering, litter picking, painting graffiti, etc)	46	570	AHW0065 AHW0060 AHW0057 AHW0049 AHW0047 AHW0043 AHW0040
Plants and Soil (from Riv- erside garden centre)		328	AHW0065 AHW0060 AHW0057 AHW0049 AHW0047 AHW0043 AHW0040

Item	Quantity	Expenditure	Invoice No.
Other expenses (paint, varnish, topsoil, rubbish clearance)		267.73	AHW0065 AHW0060 AHW0057 AHW0049 AHW0047 AHW0043 AHW0040
Bristol Wood recycling Project	Planters X10 mobile Planters X3 bench	1,000 1295	INV3378 INV3518
Amy Hutchings	Hotwells Voices event (community engagement)	150	
Luke Palmer	Suspension Bridge Mural	500	
Grace Kress	Flyer Design	200	GK060
LiveGraft	Tending seed beds after council sprayed	450	LiveGraft0063
Total		5917.73	
Voluntary hours			
Financial Year 2020-2021			
Riverside for dogwood	10 plants	109.89	AHW0068
Noticeboard	1	275.94	AHW0068
Paints		257	AHW0069
Soil	260L	50.5	AHW0072
Gravel & grit	460kg	75.95	AHW0072
Plants	33	70.58	AHW0072
Sedum beds clearing	5hrs	50	AHW0072

Item	Quantity	Expenditure	Invoice No.
Project management, community engagement and production of resources	20	375	AHW0072

Item	Quantity	Expenditure	Invoice No.
Mhairi	16 hours	400	22/7/20 & 25/9/20
Anna & Amy	14 hours	350	AHW0073
Art materials for kids		30	AHW0073
Project management, community engagement and production of resources, maintenance, repairing herons, repainting tagging, etc.	20	375	AHW0073
Voluntary hours Anna & Leon	65		
Voluntary hours others	70		
Totals		2303.92	