

THE CGC CHARTER

Contents

Page One

Introduction
Formation
Our Aims

Page Two

Area Usage Aims
Utilising Area Expertise
Planning Process

Page Three

Develop and Maintain
Community

Page Four

Enhancing Security
Local Area Backing
Feedback

Cavendish Gardens Co-operative

Contact

Graham Tuckley
Cavendish Gardens Co-operative
c/o 44 Cavendish Gardens
Walsall
WS2 7JN

Telephone : 01922 612955

Website : www.cgc.vze.com
E-mail : info-cgc@blueyonder.co.uk

Introduction

Contractors originally tended the grassed areas around Cavendish Gardens and Bloxwich Lane, their duties were to cut the grass and remove any rubbish.

A couple of residents from one block felt it would be much nicer to have a few flowerbeds and began transforming a small area outside their block. The residents involved also tended the lawn.

After a few years this area became well developed and drew many visitors and accolades. Slowly, several other residents decided they would develop the grassed area outside their respective blocks.

Residents began commenting on how poor the contractors were tending the areas they still mowed, and felt it could be better tended by themselves.

Formation

The Cavendish Gardens Co-operative was formed, with the approval and backing of BCHA, to take control and develop the communal garden areas.

After consulting with residents, initial ideas were formed with more ambitious plans for the future.

The aims of the CGC are not just gardening, but to help bring back a sense of close community, and to enhance the security of the area.

OUR AIMS

Plan, co-ordinate, develop and maintain the garden areas, providing gardening support and help to the community.

Promote community integration, enhancing sense of community, with an added sense of well-being and make the area more secure.

To enhance the security of our area.

Ensure access for people with disabilities.

Ensuring people with poor mobility can enjoy the area.

To host community wide events

“The aims of the CGC are not just gardening, but to help bring back a sense of close community, and to enhance the security of the area.”

AREA USEAGE AIMS

The CGC endeavour to respond to the needs of the community, we have identified three main principals when developing plans for the communal areas.

- ◆ Provision for display areas
Areas of flowerbeds and other colourful displays including areas of natural planting
- ◆ Provision for play / relaxation areas
Grassed areas where children can play . Communal areas for elderly, disabled and able-bodied adults can relax and integrate
- ◆ Provision for community areas
For community activities like picnics and celebrations

UTILISING AREA EXPERTISE

All residents will be invited to participate in any way that they feel able and meets their interest. This will include being actively involved in the maintance and improvement of the surrounding grassed area, providing physical labour, gardening expertise, building and carpentry skills.

Utilising and developing the community's knowledge of horticulture, design and propagation. Utilising residents skills in promoting good communication, social care and the development of community spirit.

“We hold regular meetings to discuss any ideas and plan future action”

PLANNING PROCESS

All residents are invited to give their opinion on how they would like the area developed, with a major say in their immediate surroundings. To aid in this process each block has volunteered a representative to liase with the residents in their block for their thoughts and ideas. The block representatives then report any opinions give to the next CGC meeting.

We hold regular meetings to discuss any ideas and plan future action. We hold two types of meeting, weekly meetings and a main monthly meeting. The weekly meetings allow residents to come together to discuss general gardening issues. The monthly meeting discuss planning, development and ideas about the area in general. All residents are welcome to attend any of these meetings and provide a useful forum for residents to get together and interact.

DEVELOP AND MAINTAIN

The residents are invited to take part in gardening activities, strong support has been shown and various work has already commenced. All residents are able to take part, even if it's only making the tea, our aim is to not to exclude any resident who wishes to help, whatever their abilities.

Residents will develop the grassed areas around their block, to the agreed plan. If the residents feel the task is too difficult, volunteers from other blocks will help to complete the work. Some of the work involves all blocks, for example, edging the lawns, these tasks are undertaken by volunteers from all blocks.

Advice is always available to those who need it, they are able to attend one of the general gardening meetings to gain answers and get ideas. .

Once the gardens have been developed, the residents will continue to maintain and tend the gardens. Display areas will continue to be developed for even more impressive effect year on year.

COMMUNITY

Some people talk about the old days when everyone knew each other; people looked after their neighbours, felt safe and secure, The CGC aims to enhance the sense of community spirit by promoting ourselves as community inclusive.

The area has a high number of elderly and disabled, although they may not be able to do any garden work themselves, we still want all residents to get involved in anyway they're able. Whether it's just by giving his or her ideas or showing support, getting everyone involved will reduce isolation. For example, a disabled resident, who can't do the physical work, can be involved by producing our newsletter.

It is hoped community events will also allow residents to interact further and get to know each other. Once a community event is planned, all residents will be invited to take part, in addition, help organise and prepare for the event.

The regular meetings at the Cavendish 'Drop In' will help residents to interact and get to know each other. The meetings will also ensure the residents can get together in a friendly atmosphere, have a chat, and get involved, feel included.

The more structured opportunities are provided to enable the

(Continued on page 4)

"The CGC aims to enhance the sense of community spirit by promoting ourselves as community inclusive"

(Continued from page 3)

residents interact, the more friendships and acquaintances will be made, this will enhance the sense of community and the care and understanding shown to others. . This will result in a reduction in isolation with a greater sense of well-being. Residents will become aware of the more vulnerable in the community and will make sure they are well and provide help when needed, promoting a greater sense of personal security

ENHANCING SECURITY

A strong community is essential to enhance both personal and area security. The CGC is determined to promote community integration. It is hoped a strong community will deter crime and enhance personal safety.

The more residents interact, the more they will get to know each other, as people become familiar with each other, unknown visitors will become more easily noticeable.

As the area is developed, more residents will spend time enjoying the gardens, a greater presence of residents will quickly identify any unknown visitors, deterring any malicious persons..

LOCAL AREA BACKING

Cavendish Gardens Co-operative is backed by our local housing association, BCHA.

BCHA are a community focused, forward thinking association.

To aid the development of the CGC they have provided funding to purchase equipment and tools. They will also provide funding to buy plants as necessary. They have also agreed to areas of low level fencing to stop shortcutting across the gardens.

FEEDBACK

Regular feedback is provided in the format of a monthly newsletter. The newsletters are delivered to every home in the area. The newsletter includes news and updates on what is planned and how we are progressing, a gardening feature is also included in every issue.

A website is currently under development, the site will map the history of the CGC, it's aims and ideas. It is hoped the information will help others in a similar situation to take control of their area, showing what can be done. The web address is www.cgcvze.com

The visitors can email us for any further information or help they may need at info-cgc@blueyonder.co.uk

*“Cavendish Gardens
Co-operative is
backed by our local
housing association,
BCHA.”*