

Bentilee in Bloom

2018



*Bentilee in Bloom
it's our Neighbourhood*

Foreword

By Cllr Stephen Funnell & Cllr Sheila Pitt

Bentilee is the third largest social housing estate in Europe which has an abundance of dedicated community groups, schools and voluntary workers, who devote their time and energy to improve the community and the area in which they live. Both Councillors agreed that Bentilee in Bloom would be an ideal opportunity to bring these groups together to improve the environment and create a feeling of community wellbeing.

We have been encouraged by the way schools, youth clubs, churches, residents' associations, local residents and Community Groups have responded and supported each other.

This is just the beginning; and we hope to develop this project year on year and continue to make Bentilee a place that we are proud to live in.

Polly's Garden



Polly's Garden was created as a community project when the centre was built and it was named Polly's Garden after the sad loss of the daughter of the centre manager of Tree House Children's Centre at that time.

Over the years it has been left abandoned and become overgrown. The young members of one of the local youth clubs, with the supervision of the youth development team have been working very hard into bringing life back to Polly's Garden.

This has now become an area that has been revitalised and the young people from Bentilee youth club have agreed to maintain the raised beds, to enable the area to be used more by the nursery groups that visit the Children's Centre

Before



During



Now



Community litter picks

Over the last 18 months the community groups, youth clubs & the students of The Discovery Academy have held a number of intergenerational community litter picks where various community members have got involved. The areas covered have been those areas that have reports of a large amount of litter. We have covered Berry Hill Fields, 3 greens in front of Bentilee Neighbourhood Centre, and the large fields just off Beverly Drive.



Brookhouse & Ubberley Village Forum

Brookhouse & Ubberley village forum have been running for well over 20 years and have been involved in a number of projects in the community. Their latest project is to encourage participation in a fun “Best Kept Garden” competition for all the residents of Bentilee and Ubberley ward. They have partnered up with EPIC housing and have started a Best Kept Garden Competition. The competition is open to all residents within the ward, and there are 3 prizes on offer.

1st Prize is high tea with the Lord Mayor and £50.00 Love to shop vouchers donated by EPIC housing

2nd Prize is £30.00 Love to shop voucher donated by EPIC Housing

3rd Prize is £20. 00 love to shop voucher again donated by EPIC Housing



Bentilee & Ubberley
Best Kept Garden
Competition

epic
Empowering People.
Inspiring Communities.



Bentilee in Bloom

Its your Neighbourhood

Brookhouse & Ubberley Village Forum are working in partnership with Bentilee in Bloom & EPIC Housing. They would like to invite all keen gardeners to enter into the best kept garden competition.

1st Prize £50.00 Love to shop voucher from EPIC Housing & High Tea with the Lord Mayor

2nd Prize £30.00 Love to shop Voucher from EPIC Housing

3rd Prize £20.00 Love to shop voucher from EPIC Housing

Judging will take place in August 2018

*If you would like to take part, please contact
Bev tel: 01782 701201 or Peter tel: 01782 273631
for an application form.*



Brookhouse & Ubberley
Village Forum

The gardens will be judged on the 6th August 2018 by the Lord Mayor and the winners notified

Bentilee Volunteers

Bentilee Volunteers is located in the middle of Bentilee who offer invaluable services to the residents of Bentilee and Stoke-on-Trent. Their overarching aim is to be at the heart of our community by providing vital support and services that help to raise aspirations, enable and empower local people, support the disadvantaged and improve overall quality of life.

The services they currently offer include a Youth Club, Seniors' Lunch Club and a social club for adults with learning disabilities.

The team that are involved in Bentilee in Bloom are Youth link, which is a club for young people aged between 7 and 13 years. They have created colourful flowers to decorate the windows of the Pavilion which is situated in Bentilee Park.



St Maria Goretti Catholic Academy

The staff at St Maria Goretti Catholic Academy are very proud of the “family” atmosphere and culture of their school. The culture is firmly embedded, enabling children of all faiths, abilities and personalities to thrive and succeed.

The young children from St Maria Goretti Catholic School along with their parents have started a gardening club. They have built and painted new raised planters, encouraged participation in growing plants, improved health and exercise along with the young people taking part in taster sessions of the food they have grown, such as salad tasters.

Bird Boxes have also been introduced to increase the different wildlife into the school grounds.

Before



During



Now



Moss Green Residents Association

Moss Green Residents Association has been running for over 10 years, and have the sole use of a community house which is situated on Canary Road, Moss Green.

The group have a number of volunteers who offer a variety of activities for the residents of Moss Green Estate.

The members of Moss Green Residents Association have also worked hard to create an inviting entrance to the community hub by installing two new planters and new hanging baskets and have been planted up with flowers by the young members from SPLAT youth club

Before



Moss Green residents Association are also hoping to be the hosts and sponsors in partnership with Riverside Housing association for next year's "Best Kept Garden 2019" Competition

Bentilee Beavers

Bentilee Beavers are the 99th Berryhill Beavers. Beavers are the youngest section of the Scout Group, and the young people who attend Bentilee Beavers are aged between 6-8 years of age. They are a very busy beavers doing badges and try new skills like, sleepover, archery, all round the world, our environment, outdoor camp, crafts and gardening

They meet at the Scout Hut in Wendy Close, Berryhill, every Thursday Evening 6.00pm-7.30pm Their Beavers oath is

“I promise to do my best to be kind and helpful and to love our world.
To have fun and make Friends”

Before



During





Now



SAFER Communities cic



Some of this work would not have been possible if it wasn't for the funding secured through Safer Communities. Bentlee in Bloom Its our Neighbourhood applied to their Wellbeing in the community Funding pot to secure funding for litter pickers, hi-vis waistcoats, plant pots, seedling trays, and gloves to fit men women and children. All this equipment will enhance the project and allow it to grow.

Bentlee in Bloom Partnership Working



Here is a few of the members of Bentlee in Bloom committee which was formed late 2017. The committee has representatives from voluntary groups, local schools, youth clubs, church volunteers and elected members.

2019 & beyond Bentilee in Bloom Plans

Bentilee Neighbourhood Centre



Bentilee Neighbourhood Centre was the first of its kind built in the city of Stoke-on-Trent. It was built to provide all services under one roof from health care, housing, library and the community. It is situated in the heart of the Bentilee and Ubbertley Ward. From the success of the community involvement of the residents of Bentilee, the group would like to improve the outdoor appearance of the land surrounding the centre, so this will be part of the plans for 2019.



The Meadows

The Meadows offers accommodation for persons who require nursing or personal care, or who are sufferers of Dementia, Learning disabilities, mental health conditions or physical disabilities.



For 2019 the young students from The Discovery Academy, would like to get involved in an intergenerational project , visiting the scheme, provide an activity with the resident to plant up the external grounds to provide a colourful area for the residents to sit out in or view from indoors.

St Stephens Community Church Dawlish Drive

St Stephens Community Church is at the heart of Bentilee

Streetwise is a youth club, which is one of the activities that is run from the Community Church, which is for young people aged from 11 to 17. These young people have come up with a plan to create a remembrance garden by installing flower beds on the small piece of land under the church windows within the church gardens to provide a peaceful haven for residents to visit.



Maple Court Academy

Maple Court Academy is situated in the community of Bentilee and the school prides itself on its welcoming environment and has extensively refurbished the interior and exterior of the building over the last two years. The school has high aspirations for every child every day and truly believes there is no limit to the potential of their pupils.

The motto of the school is “Expect Excellence. Achieve Excellence”

The school children have been working with their parents to start a gardening club of which they have created lots of hanging baskets that will be hung around the school, in particular in an area called the Quadrangle. There is also an area of scrub land that is situated at the rear of the school which is going to be part of a bigger plan to turn this space into an outdoor education area in partnership with the Discovery Academy. This area will also incorporate an area for community use.

Work has started on the site, the volunteers and staff have cleared some of the land and erected a poly tunnel and incorporated new pathways.

This project is one that is in its infancy stages, and will be one of the projects for Bentilee in Bloom in 2019 and beyond



The Discovery Academy

The Discovery Academy has a number of new projects that will start from the new term in September 2018.

The first project will involve every year 6 and year 7 student who will get involved in regular litter picks within the ward of Bentilee. This will also be in partnership of any community groups willing to get involved.

The second project is for the students to sow wild flowers seeds to an unsightly area of land close to the main gates of the school entrance. This will enhance the pedestrian entrance to the school premises.

The third project is to introduce an Eco club. This will raise awareness of the importance of recycling all materials; have recycling stations including the introduction of water butts.

Final note from the chair

As chair of the group I am really proud of all the hard work put in by so many groups. We only had our first meeting in late 2017, and after a stuttering start while we found our feet we all helped one another with ideas, advice and encouragement. This is the first time we have entered the competition and the results are a testimony to the vibrant community spirit throughout the ward of Bentilee and Ubbesley.

