

Regeneration Statement

Planters at Road Closure Points

There are ongoing plans to introduce flower and veg planters at the road closure points as part of a community-led project to improve the Groves by enhancing the natural environment. The project will build on the energy and enthusiasm of local residents as part of the 'Greening the Groves' campaign - planting trees, shrubs and other plants in planters throughout the area in a bid to reclaim the streets.

The project is a collaboration of community-led groups currently active in the Groves (The Secret Garden Project, Flower Power York, Markham Lanes Project) and will be delivered by a *Greening the Groves working group*, comprising local residents and community group representatives. It will be informed by similar projects undertaken by other community groups based in the Groves as well as the wider city, including YUMI (who run a community garden bringing together people from many different cultures) and Walmgate Resident's Association.

The project will breathe colour into the Groves – reclaiming the streets for walking, cycling and gardening and encouraging more people to take an active part in improving their local environment. It will build on local initiatives like the street planters outside the Lowther Street shops, paid for and maintained by the local charity shop, planting areas on the estate led by Flower Power York and supported by local volunteers, a pilot project to develop communal green spaces in the back lanes paid for by ward funds and delivered by local residents, and volunteers taking care of the Human Rights Garden in Clarence Gardens. There are also plans in place to introduce water butts across the Groves to make it easier for local residents to take care of the new green areas that have been established through other recent initiatives.

These projects have already demonstrated that there are an increasing number of people living in the area that want to voluntarily take an active part in enhancing their local environment and also many vulnerable people who are appreciative of the enhanced environment that has been created.