

Grounds Maintenance

“the Cinderella of horticulture”

Mathew Frith 2007



Grounds Maintenance

The only constant link Jan
has with her green space





Clapton park estate.

John little
the Grass roof company



- Its an estate of around 1200 properties mostly lease hold.
- includes 120 separate green spaces.
- the estate has been run by residents under a tenants management scheme since 1994
- we won the contract for the green space maintenance in July 2002
- signed new 5 year contract March 2008



Plants and people

- Why T.M.O's are important?

- What do residents want?

- Formal links;**

- The board of residents

- Management team

- Informal links.**

- Meets with individual blocks

- Green days

- Chats during work-the most important link

- Community

- Schools/nurseries/allotments

- Cleaning staff/security staff

- Delivering what the residents want**

Clapton park residents' board members



8

Members of the Clapton Park Estate Resident Group have a lot to smile about. They are seeing their green spaces transformed.

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open

INSPIRATION AND IDEAS FROM
THE HOUSING CORPORATION
NUMBER 24 ISSUE TWO

Welcome to the second issue of Open, brought to you by the Housing Corporation, the government agency that funds new affordable housing and regulates the work of housing associations in England.

In this issue, we focus on the latest green developments in housing. We show how housing associations are upping environmental standards of both new homes and existing buildings, and how greening the spaces in between homes is helping to improve the quality of residents' lives. And at the back you'll find a directory of research and guidance published by the Housing Corporation and others, which will help you find the expertise you're looking for on this subject.

Inside

FEATURES

- 8 COMMUNITY SPIRIT**
where plants are changing
the neighbourhood
- 10 BROAD HORIZONS**
eco housing's biggest test yet
- 12 AFTER THE FLOODS**
how Carlisle came back stronger
- 18 CAN WE FIX IT?**
why builders are switching
to green designs
- 18 NATURAL HOMES**
making sustainable
products affordable

REGULARS

- 4 OPEN NEWS**
ideas from around the country
- 6 OPEN STORY**
going green in Withshire
- 7 OPEN WORLD**
green space and park life
in Brazil
- 16 OPEN MINDS**
why Walcott's eco standards
lead the way
- 20 THE DIRECTORY**
innovative and relevant
publications
- 23 OPEN QUOTES**
what the residents say
- 23 OPEN INTERVIEW**
Sheila Button on green thinking



Why TMO's are so important to us as contractors

Gives direct and regular contact with the residents

Allows smaller companies the chance to work in urban green space maintenance

Much more open to change

Green Days - Seeds for answers



"I would like to see more green space filled with flowers. It makes the site more beautiful and clean. I would also like to see it kept clean and nice at all time"

"To crunched up together"

"It's not Milton Keynes. Help people to do their gardens. More green areas for children to play"

"Grow things that can eat"

"Keep up the good work it really beautiful"

“If you need any voluntary help I’m willing, can’t do double digging because a horse fell on me! But pruning, planting etc. Can’t remember mobile no but knock – I’m in every afternoon. Good work”



Talking
and
working



Links with cleaning and security teams



Bringing the community into the public space



Homerton Station

Volunteers and green waste compost



Homerton Station Laying wildflower turf



Delivering what the residents
want? Or don't want?



Herbicide or flowers?





Railings.....
our most
important asset

Annuals



Maureen, chair of the TMO, I'm sure she likes what we do?







Making them last







Throw them everywhere?



Common
and easy is
good

Wild flower turf edge a more sustainable approach?





Mid October still acceptable?



Roll out Herbaceous border?



Let people know what's coming next



Biodiversity and hybrid teas?





1000
metres of
trellis



Herbicide contract





Estate food

Allotments, Orchards and herb beds



Bringing communities together



Tidy vegKeep everyone happy



Zenap

Food grower, bread maker and TV star



Orchard?



Herbs – open to all





Not enough mint!



Too much Rosemary



Composting on site? Tricky



Green roofs/brown roofs







Where the dogs go?



veg growing space













2005 6 8



Prairie seed mix





Common and
hardy



Stop
mowing





Add a few plugs, seeds

Acceptable?



Acceptable?



Acceptable?



Colour and biodiversity without water



3rd year after sowing.
Short flowering?



Communal gardens





Funding- get the applications in












Neat and wild getting
the balance



Using waste,
logs woodchip





Native shrubs, fruit
trees get them in
they're cheap

Disguising biodiversity?





Native/non native



Chelsea flower show - getting the message out









2008
SUSTAINABLE
HOUSING
AWARDS
WINNER

What went wrong?

Middle class views

Not enough complaints

Naturalistic/neat balance

Getting residents outside

Not enough links with local council

The basics

Need more links with wildlife groups

Not enough formal surveys



What works?

Food growing

Colour

Growing from seed

Native and fruit
tree planting

External funding



School grounds maintenance

A small price to pay



Adding biodiversity.....Part of the maintenance contract?



Reducing herbicides.....Part of the maintenance contract?



Green days.....part of the maintenance contract?



Encouraging bike storagepart of the maintenance contract?





Possibilities Part of the maintenance contract?



Links to local environmental groups..... Part of the maintenance contract?



Outdoor learning
.....part of the
maintenance
contract?



Creative thinkingPart of the maintenance contract?



Advice and enthusiasmShould be part of every maintenance contract



www.grassroofcompany.co.uk

