



Janet's Story

The Beginning:

Janet was a keen gardener and wanted to set up a community garden in Horsforth. She met with the Community Builder who connected Janet with the local councillor and the manager of the Parks & Countryside Team at Leeds City Council. There was immediate support for the venture, and it was determined that the community garden would be located within Horsforth Park. Guardianship of the land was passed to Friends of Horsforth Park and Janet enthusiastically took to social media, talking to residents and organising events to build wider community support for the project.

"Horsforth Community Garden is a wonderful example of what communities can achieve with a little bit of help. Janet's idea was a seed which will continue to grow for many years."

Claire Evans, ABCD Community Builder for Horsforth



The Journey:

Janet proved to be an excellent connector and successfully recruited two garden designers to the project alongside an array of local people. Following design of the community garden, the group were ready to take on the task of putting paths in place but were advised that the work had to be carried out by council contractors and would cost £6,000. The group raised monies and were given Small Sparks funding by the Community Builder. Unfortunately, by the time this had been achieved, the original quote was no longer valid. Undeterred, Janet and the Community Builder forged a local partnership with TVC Hollybush, a local conservation group, which had the expertise to meet council requirements and take the work forward.



By this time the cost of the paths had risen to £10,000. Janet's enthusiasm and persistence motivated the local community to crowdfund to raise more monies and to work with other community groups to share skills and resources to build and install raised beds. In the space of a year, the group took ownership, design and modelling of the community garden and were able to start planting and growing.

The Impact:

Janet's passion for gardening and her enthusiasm for taking local action motivated others to be self-resourcing and to take ownership of the project. The community garden is a valued asset which gives the community a place of their own and where children's activities, a place to sit and relax, tree trails and vegetable give aways are but some of the benefits this asset gives to the community. The community coming together to create positive change has strengthened community relations by forging new connections amongst neighbours whilst creating a sense of achievement and pride in a 'job well done'.

