

CARLIN HOW COMMUNITY FORUM

Saltburn by the Sea

Living Spaces Grant: £25,000

Recreation facilities in the Carlin How area were limited, most especially for children and young people. The village had grown with the development of ironstone mining and steel making so has suffered from industrial decline over the past 30 years.

The idea for the project came from children and young people, who took a petition to a CHANGE (the Carlin How Community Forum) meeting asking for somewhere safe to play. Residents agreed to support the idea and after community consultations involving 360 people it was decided that a new recreation facility should be created to benefit as broad a spectrum of the community as possible. The site found was ideal, owned by Carlin How Working Men's Club and Institute it was adjacent to the community centre and children's play area on an unused open space.



Now, after 4 years hard work and with the help of the Living Spaces grant and funding from Doorstep Green, the site boasts open grass spaces, seating areas, a trim trail, equipment for exercise and play, planted areas and wildlife space. As well as being used for informal play and recreation it has already proved an accessible venue for community events including the launch ceremony and a church fete. A multi use games area developed at the back of the site is also well used by the local Whitecliffe Primary school and the community group has developed a booking system and a site care procedure for out of school hours use.

There's a real sense of ownership and achievement in Carlin How, residents maintain the site and the benefits are widely acknowledged as Redcar & Cleveland Borough Council Community Development Worker Pat Watson says "It provides a heart to the village and a strong focus for future community initiatives".