

GORSE HILL COMMUNITY ACTION GROUP

Manchester

Living Spaces Grant: £23,850

When the Gorse Hill Community Action Group in Trafford heard about street planting projects in the area they decided to take action to organise a project that would result in 24 trees being planted in their neighbourhood.

The Group were keen for the tree planting project to take place for a variety of reasons, not just visual impact, but also a reduction in the noise and air pollution from the surrounding industrial estates. It was also felt that there had been a deterioration in the level of community spirit over the past 20 years. The initial work had evoked such a positive response from residents, the wider project was seen as an ideal mechanism to redress the situation.



The improvements were certainly needed, because although Gorse Hill had been the subject of a housing regeneration programme to refurbish properties, roads and infrastructure, no new greenery was brought into the area, many of the houses were without gardens of their own. Indeed, local greenery had been lost in recent times because of tree felling on the adjacent railway line.

Following extensive consultations with residents on the Gorse Hill Estate and with the help of a Living Spaces grant, a large scale planting programme was implemented on 11 streets in the area, the work also involved children from Gorse Hill Primary School. A large number of people of all ages were thus involved and have the 'ownership' of the work that will contribute to the project's long-term success.

Since the project began a large number of residents from surrounding streets have contacted the community group about the possibility of the tree planting being extended to their streets.

