

Summary Report

Dig It Open Day

Healthwatch Doncaster
Engage, inform, influence

26th May 2017

1 Introduction

1.1 Details of activity

We are looking to promote a sustainable future for the community allotment in Denaby ensuring that the benefits of allotment gardening are recognised.

Allotments have a valuable role to play in modern society that should not just be confined to the promotion of health and wellbeing to the individual allotment tenant. Communities will be strengthened through active participation, landscape quality will be improved, biodiversity will be enhanced and innovative approaches to site design and management will encourage urban regeneration offering benefits to the whole community.

A launch event was held on 26 May 2017 and local people were invited along with schools.

At the event we had a flower/fruit arrangement demonstration. This was around using locally produced materials and at a minimum cost.

Various activities were offered including Pizza making (cooked in an outdoor pizza oven).

Planting activities in baskets/pots offered/ gardening demonstrations.

Birdfeeders activity offered where the children made pinecone feeders supported by DMBC team.

1.2 Acknowledgements

I would like to thank, DMBC Country Side Rangers Team.

Brian from Encaustic Art Plus.

Communities Team in DMBC

Volunteers in the community Schools

Travis Perkins for materials supplied.

2 What was the purpose of the activity/session?

2.1 Purpose

The purpose of the event was to let the community know that the allotment area is a space that the community can use.

Encouraging engagement from:

Local school children

Existing allotment holders

Volunteers in the community

Vulnerable adults who access Personal Assistants Payments

Isolated members of the community via Be friend service

Young adults who attend Hesley group (will be recycling pallets to make benches to use at the allotment).

The outcomes for the project will be:

Reduce Isolation

People are beginning to take control of their own health which will ultimately be reduced appointments at GP.

Raise aspirations of local people and provide social enterprise opportunities- making saleable items from pallets/hanging baskets/wreaths.

2.2 What did you do?

Prior to the event, advertising was shared in the community.

For the event a carousel of activities was arranged so that school children could be split into groups.

See above for activities.

The community project raised an awareness of Healthwatch. A board to showcase the journey of the allotments had a Healthwatch leaflet displayed and the logo.

2.3 Results of the activity/session(s)

People really enjoyed the event and schools have requested to access the space. A lady in the community has asked to use the space for home school.

Feedback from people who took part was that people found the event really interesting and they are keen to help the project.

Feedback from staff/volunteers who took part was that they felt the event was a success and that a yearly event would pull the community together and keep the allotments fresh in minds.

2.4 Conclusion

A brilliant event, thanks for all the hard work from then community.

It is hoped that the project will help Reduce Isolation.

People are beginning to take control of their own health which will ultimately be reduced appointments at GP.

Raise aspirations of local people and provide social enterprise opportunities- making saleable items from pallets/hanging baskets/wreaths.

Moving forward, all community workers who access the allotment project will be made aware of Healthwatch and will be a topic for conversation.

At future allotment meetings Healthwatch will be a standard agenda item to raise awareness and create conversation.