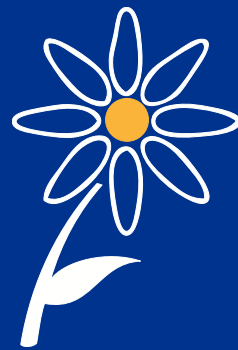


South Yorkshire Community Foundation



Case Study - Grant Thornton and Heeley Development Trust



Green-fingered volunteers from accountancy firm Grant Thornton have stepped in to help revitalise a patch of forgotten wasteland just a stones throw from their office.

The green space, opposite Anns Grove Primary School in Heeley, had become an eyesore and a target for fly tippers and anti-social behaviour.

Local conservation group, the Heeley Development Trust, had been intent on turning the area into an outdoor hub of the community in which local people could congregate and be proud of.

Thanks to an introduction made by the South Yorkshire Community Foundation (SYCF) and a cash boost of £500, the two organisations were able to form a fruitful partnership that has seen the space re-energised.

Simon Bartles, of Heeley Development Trust, said: "For years we have wanted to get stuck in and tidy it up.

It was a spot for fly-tipping and discarded household waste and the youngsters in the school playground look straight on to it.



Work complete - how the renovated site looked at the end of a hard days work



How the site looked in the early stages of the clean up operation

"Hopefully people in the area will see it being maintained and used and commit to keeping it like that.

Grant Thornton's support has been fantastic. We would not have been able to do anywhere near as much without their additional help."

Staff working for Heeley Development Trust were joined by around 15 volunteers from Grant Thornton, who worked together to completely clear the area, restoring picnic benches, creating raised flower beds and installing a walking path through the space.

Grant Thornton has a long association of working with SYCF to fulfil its charitable objectives in the local communities.

The link with Heeley Development Trust came when the firm approached SYCF with an interest in providing staff to volunteer on a project close to their office.

Peter Edwards, director of Grant Thornton, said: "This has all stemmed from the firm wanting to do a volunteering project that we could get the staff involved with."

"Corporate social responsibility is always high on our agenda, whatever it may be. We wanted to put something back into the community."

"We saw this plot and thought to work on this place would be a great idea. We wanted to get to a stage where people use it again."

"Hopefully people will come in here while they are waiting for the children to come out of school."

"This has been a great collaboration between Grant Thornton, Heeley Development Trust and the South Yorkshire Community Foundation."

In addition to the initial introduction made by SYCF, the grant of £500 from the charity's Volunteering Fund allowed those involved to go even further in their renovations of the plot.

Pauline Grice, chief executive of SYCF, said: "The work we do is about connecting the people who care to causes that matter with this link being a shining example."

"The difference that the team of volunteers were able to make to the area in just a day was astounding and just shows how much can be achieved with determination and commitment."

"We were delighted to be able to introduce the two organisations to each other and also to provide the small grant of £500 that allowed them to really maximise the effect the clear up project has had."



Staff from Heeley Development Trust and Grant Thornton take a break from the action to receive the cheque from Sue Wragg of the South Yorkshire Community Foundation



With work completed, the team celebrate a great day of community action that has seen the complete revitalisation of an important green-space in the Heeley area