



Decent Neighbourhoods case study – Byron Court



Nottingham City Council Housing Services has been working to refurbish the drying areas and improve the gardens for residents.

Background:

To improve the external drying areas and gardens at Byron Court for residents, Nottingham City Council Housing Services has undertaken a full refurbishment of two drying areas and unused overgrown gardens that attracted a lot of ASB. Byron Court consists of a one three-storey building containing flats. The flats are located off Bond Street in St Anns.

Challenge:

Before the improvements were made, the drying areas were unused and unappealing, dated and lacking any purpose. The drying area was not fit for its intended purpose and all areas attracted anti-social behaviour. The tarmac needed replacing with more adequate draining, and a very tall wall on the lower drying area needed to be lowered to reduce ASB but still maintaining privacy for residents. A feature garden had been taken over by tree roots, overgrown plants, damaged paths and features. The access around the flats was also restricted, and with residents support we wanted to open up the area to unite all the space available where it is a premium in a city centre location like this one at Byron Court.



Before:



Solution:

To solve the issues, Nottingham City Council Housing Services has undertaken a full refurbishment to include: resurfacing, new planters, repair of brick planters and retaining walls, reduction in brick wall height and partition walls, new fencing and gates, increased external bin capacity and the re-location from the main entrance to improve the appearance and reduce odours, new rotary dryers, benches and tables.



After:



The scheme has received positive feedback and the residents are making use of the new and improved facilities on offer to them. The area now has a more secure and welcoming feel to it, and residents are involved in the planting that will take place so that they can take ownership and develop to suit their needs.