

## **Feedback on Community Garden and Decking project - Ruddi's Retreat**

### **Project**

Ruddi's Retreat, a charitable organisation proposed to create a small community garden to the rear of its café in Linthwaite. The activity was to engage the local community in clearing the space and planting the garden as well as local schools.

### **Cost**

Total cost of the project was £653 and £620 was contributed by the district committee. Other funding applications were not successful. The funding was spend on building costs and equipment including plants, grass seed and bulbs.

### **Volunteers**

Pallets were donated to make steps, fencing and planters. One volunteer contributed 4 days labour a week over a few months and local college students painted murals, power washed surfaces, walls and helped put in fencing.

### **Beneficiaries**

Dozens of people every day- customers visiting on a daily basis. We have learnt a lot about plants, flowers, fruit and vegetables and the times of year they need to be planted, harvested etc.

### **Evaluation**

The project was fun and went extremely well. Everyone involved has been kind and happy to help. We achieved our aim by being focused, having a clear plan and tight schedule. By enlisting the help of a customer who is a joiner we managed to finish the project quickly and cleanly. Local support was fabulous.

Feedback has been great. We have close links with 3 local schools who can't wait until the weather gets slightly better so they can come and start planting fruit and vegetables. This can happen when we have installed safer handrails on the steps. All our customers love the new decking area and it has made a massive difference to the look of the outside area.

### **What next**

The project has ended in terms of the building work has finished but we do intend to carry on the work with the garden area. We want to bring the community together and make the garden a place where everyone can get involved.