

Case Study - Landscape Architecture Planning Initiative

- Pilot 8 groups

The landscape architecture planning initiative is borne out of key animation work targeted at 2 main groupings.

1. Tidy Towns Groups
2. Resident Groups in Local Authority Housing Estates.

In relation to tidy towns groups, key areas from a competition perspective are vital: landscaping, wildlife and natural amenities. A focus is placed on animating Tidy Towns Groups to think ahead and plan wisely so any development that the group undertakes may deliver additional marks. An opportunity to improve the landscaping or aesthetics of unsightly or underutilised space encourages groups to apply themselves to the project below.

Facilitated work with residents in local authority housing estates to aid development of residents groups lends itself to residents taking pride in their place. Residents Groups become more proactive about working on key problem areas such as untidiness, inadequate play areas for children and poor estate infrastructure which leads to their subsequent interest in the project outlined below

Objective

The goal of the Landscape Architecture Planning Initiative is to assist community groups in rural villages or residents groups in Local Authority estates to look at unsightly or underutilised space in their respective areas and through consultation within the community and with the Local Authority, and the work with/by a landscape architect to develop a detailed and quantified plan, giving them a blueprint for implementation.

So often in our rural villages and towns unsightly space can really detract from the environs of the community and this is an opportunity for groups to really make a difference in an informed manner through the use of an expert.

Project Delivery

- Consultation with groups on problem areas. Prior to developing an Initiative of this nature, groups need to be listened to on what issues they face. The project needs to be borne from an obvious need.
- Analysis of the needs identified
- Consultation with potential partners including the local authorities and consult with relevant officers of the Local Authority
- Formation of a small Initiative Steering Group, inclusive of stakeholders
- Develop an initiative aimed at the 2 target groupings and agree criteria.
- Animate interest among target groups.
- The areas decided upon will lead to a spec for tender and quotation from skilled and qualified architects and landscape architects to develop plans for unsightly areas.

Outcomes

Final Plans, that have sign off by both stakeholders i.e. the group and Local Authority, that are at a stage where they can go for planning, if needed, or be given to a contractor(s) for pricing. Plans form the basis for any further application for funding from RDP/LEADER or Local Authority for implementation.

The process is all about consultation. The architect contractor has taken the lead from of the needs of the group for each space and also the reality of this need regarding local authority agreement. The process has enabled groups to build key relationships with both the Local Authority and the Local Action Groups representatives.