







INTRODUCTION

We all want to live in a neighbourhood we feel happy in, a place to be proud of, and where our kids can play safely.

Many of us consider the outside of our homes to be as important as the inside, yet fly-tipping continues to be a serious problem, costing UK local authorities a whopping £58m per year to clean up.

In 2017 Hubbub teamed up with Oldham Council, local residents and the social enterprise ifOldham to tackle this rubbish issue by turning alleyways between houses into cleaner, greener spaces.

This guide is for anyone who is interested in transforming a shared outdoor space, and needs some practical advice to get started. It features the work carried out in Oldham alleyways and is packed with top tips and quotes from local residents, but the ideas can be applied to a range of community spaces.

To support this guide Hubbub have put together a **'Love Where Your Live'** resource pack to help you get your project off the ground. Download the pack at www.hubbub.org.uk/lovewhereyoulive

If you have any questions about the information provided please get in touch at hello@hubbub.org.uk



'The passion to transform started because we love where we live, we have amazing neighbours and we were getting overwhelmed by the alleyway being a dumping ground....

I feel really proud that we have transformed an environment that brought us continued frustration and despair into one that brings us joy and hope.'



CONTENTS

1. Organising a clean up

2. Reimagining your space

3. Upcycling: transforming old into new

- Upcycling old furniture
- Pallets into planters
- Pallets into picture frames
- Tyres into planters
- How to make a bug hotel
- How to make a bird feeder

4. Getting growing

- What to plant
- Growing from seed
- How to care for flowers and herbs
- How to care for fruit trees
- Vegetable planting: friends and foes

5. Brightening up your space

- How to repoint an old brick wall
- How to install solar lights
- How to make a decorative toadstool

6. Love Where You Live resources

- Love Where You Live information board
- Love Where You Live window sticker
- Template events flyers and invitations





ORGANISING A CLEAN UP

Organising a community clean-up is the first step to transforming your space, and it's a great way to meet your neighbours.



1. Gather a team

Gather a team who can help you organise the day, so jobs can be shared among volunteers.



2. Set a date

Give yourself plenty of time to get prepared, ideally starting planning a month in advance. A Saturday is often a great day for a clean-up - spread the word by giving out flyers and knocking on doors.



3. Notify your local authority

If you are organising a public event you may need to notify your local authority. Councils can often support community action and litter picking events – they can arrange for your bags of rubbish to be collected after the clean-up and may also be able to provide you with equipment and funding.



4. Get equipment

Tools needed will depend on what you're cleaning up. At the minimum have litter pickers, work gloves (eg. rubber gloves or gardening gloves) and heavy-duty bin bags to hand. You may also need large brushes, hoes, rakes and shovels.



5. Plan refreshments and fun activities

Any job worth doing is worth celebrating, so make an event out of it. Encourage more people to come out by bringing snacks, providing hot drinks, putting on some music, or having a litter scavenger hunt for the kids.



TOP TIPS

Add a lick of paint

If gates are broken or in need of a dash of paint, this could be a great opportunity for everyone to do some general maintenance work and is a really quick way to make the space look so much better.

Scavenge the treasures

Have you spotted any fly-tipped or littered items that can be given a new lease of life? Read on to find out some ideas about how old can be turned into new.

CHECKLIST

- ✓ Invitations / event flyer
- ✓ Litter pickers
- ✓ Work gloves
- ✓ Heavy duty bin bags
- ✓ Refreshments

'Even me, I've taken the bin out so many times and seen rubbish and I've thought, ah I'm not picking that up, but today I went and picked it up. So it's even given me a kick up the backside, so to speak. So if a few of us do it, hopefully the rest of us will.'



Sage

Thyme

Parsley

Majoram



REIMAGINING YOUR SPACE

There are lots of different uses for shared community space. For example do you want to have a space that children can play in, a space where you can sit out and relax, or a space to grow flowers and plants?



Things to think about when re-designing your space:

- Do you require vehicle access?
- Does the space need to be low maintenance to suit busy schedules?
- Do you and your neighbours have tools, equipment or skills you could share with each other?
- Do you need a rota or a way of making sure that the space is well cared-for?



‘Do a little bit of planning properly about where you’ll put your planters and your benches, and maybe a rota of who’s going to do what. When it was the heat of summer we were having to make sure we asked who was watering, because some were not getting watered, some were getting watered too much.’



'We are glad to know our alleyway can be a safe and clean place, bright and colourful. A place where children can play and elders can enjoy the view.'





**UPCYCLING:
TRANSFORMING OLD INTO NEW**

UPCYCLING OLD FURNITURE

'Upcycling' is all about breathing new life into old items. Before you chuck out that creaky stool or ditch your tired old chest of drawers, think about how items could be refreshed and re-used. Here are some ideas for turning your junk into garden features that have a unique, quirky edge.



TOP TIPS

Use varnish or outdoor paints to paint any furniture going outdoors. Always lightly sand down wood furniture before painting – it's easy to do and will make a huge difference to the finish.



TURNING OLD TABLE FRAMES INTO PLANTERS

1. Put on a dust mask, goggles and gloves.
2. Remove the top from the table, sand it down, and remove old paint and rust (if the frame is metal).
3. Paint using appropriate paints for the material, whether it's spray paint or brush on, make sure you read the label for guidance.
4. Cut a rectangle of chicken wire about 30cm longer and wider than the gap in the top of the table.
5. Fix the chicken wire to the table frame using cable ties.
6. Line with moss, hessian or coir lining.
7. Fill with compost and plants.
8. Keep well-watered, especially in dry weather.



'I can't really believe what sort of old things you can bring to use. It's amazing seeing some of the things that you would think are rubbish and then seeing them turned into stuff for the plants.'

PALLET INTO PLANTER

When using old pallets make sure they are dry and have a HT or ETA stamp, this means they are safe to use.

Large leaning planters

1. Sand down thoroughly and remove or hammer down any nails and screws.
2. Varnish or paint with outdoor paint.
3. Cut and staple a piece of landscape fabric (Mypex or ground cover) around the back and sides of the pallet.
4. Fill with compost, pressing firmly down as you go, and plant up between the slats.
5. Leave flat for a couple of weeks to enable the plants to take root, before propping up against a wall.

Small wall planters

You can also make small wall planters using the end of a pallet, where the front planks are joined to the back with thick wooden blocks.

1. Saw off the ends from your pallet, sand the surfaces and remove any nails or staples.
2. Using a plank from the same pallet, cut to fit the bottom of your planter and nail it in place.
3. Paint with outdoor wood stain.
4. Line the inner with Mypex or hanging basket liner. Fill with compost and plant into it.



PALLETS INTO PICTURE FRAMES



1. Break pallet into component parts using the back of a hammer.



2. Sand down thoroughly and remove or hammer down any nails and screws.



3. Paint or stain the wood frame and decorate if desired.



4. Lay out frame face down on a flat surface, put the picture on top and screw together using battens in the corners.



5. Fix to wall using drill, screws and washers.



Finished picture frame.

'The upcycling session was a great success and it was so good to see everyone involved and how hard they worked, especially the children who worked hard and enjoyed painting and planting.'



TYRES INTO PLANTERS



1. Use soft, old, clean, dry tyres. Wash thoroughly with a lot of soapy water and leave to dry in the warmest place you can find, this makes rubber more flexible.



2. Using a card template of a petal draw around the tyre, with the tip of the petal pointing in to the rim. A permanent marker works best as it doesn't rub off.



3. Very carefully use a Stanley knife to cut through the rubber, starting from the outside and working in. You may need to use a hacksaw to cut through the tougher bits at the centre.



4. Remove the cut out centre and petal by petal turn the tyre inside out.



5. You can leave the planter black or paint with a plastic paint eg. Plasti-kote.



6. If you're growing edibles you will need to line the planter with a plant pot, rather than planting directly into the tyre.

TOP TIPS

Using the cutouts after you have made a flower planter.

1. Find an old mirror and ensure that it is clean and dry.
2. Apply a generous line of waterproof glue to the tyre inner.
3. Fix the tyre to the mirror and leave it to dry lying flat for 24 hours.
4. Hang mirror using mirror plates.

Almost anything can be made into something new for your garden, here are some ideas of things you could turn into plant pots:

- Old tins
- Wellies
- Tea pots
- Watering cans
- Colanders
- Vases, jugs



HOW TO MAKE A BUG HOTEL

This simple creation provides safe hideaways for bugs and other friendly insects who help pollinate flowers and reduce pests.

Equipment

- Large plastic bottle
- Sticks
- Bark
- Pine cones
- Moss
- Any other natural materials

3 Easy Steps

1. Cut the ends of the bottle to make a tube shape.
2. Arrange your materials by size and texture, if twigs are too long snap them into smaller pieces.
3. Stuff the cylinder with the materials, making it nice and firm so the twigs don't fall out in the wind.

Top Tip

Hang your bug hotel by looping some garden twine around the bottle before stuffing.



HOW TO MAKE A BIRD FEEDER

Attracting birds can help deter pests, control weeds, pollinate flowers and help with wildlife conservation.

Equipment

- A plastic bottle
- Wooden spoon or wooden rod
- String
- Bird seed

4 Easy Steps

1. Towards the bottom of the bottle make two holes opposite one another.
2. Stick the wooden rod through both holes. You can cut down the handles of wooden rod, but make sure to leave enough space for the birds to rest on.
3. Cut a feeding hole above your wooden rod. This is ideally 7mm in width, but it can depend on the size of seeds.
4. Towards the neck of the bottle make two more holes opposite one another and thread a string through it. This will be used to hang up the feeder.

Top Tip

To allow more birds to feed on the bottle at the same time create two more opposite holes towards the middle of the bottle at 90 degrees of the first two holes. Stick another wooden rod through them. Cut two more feeding holes above them.







GETTING GROWING

'My garden is quite a lot warmer than the rest of the gardens because it's quite blocked off and I haven't got an extension myself – we've figured out that stuff grows better in different places.'



WHAT TO PLANT

When deciding what to plant you need to think about:

- How much sun, shade, shelter and water is available?
- How much time are you able to give to looking after your plants?
- What are your priorities; colourful plants? Sweet smelling plants? Edible plants?

If you are not able to water plants often you may want to choose plants that are more resilient such as hardy herbs (rosemary, lavender and sage) or drought tolerant plants. Fruit trees can also be low maintenance providing they are rooted in the ground.



All of these are really easy to grow from seed.

For ideas on what to grow and when:

- Garden organic has a useful guide of what to plant month by month: www.gardenorganic.org.uk
- Lots of top tips and support for getting growing at: www.rhs.org.uk

HOW TO GROW SEEDLINGS

1. Find some seed trays or pots.
2. Fill the seed tray with general purpose compost.
3. Moisten the surface of the compost.
4. Place a seed in each section of the seed tray and cover with compost.
5. Cover the seed tray with a clear material to retain warmth and moisture. Most come with a propagator lid or a clear plastic bag works too.
6. Place the seed tray in a warm place such as a windowsill or greenhouse and water regularly.
7. Uncover the seedlings once they germinate.
8. When the seedlings are about 2cm tall and have at least two leaves, transplant into the garden or individual pots after the last frost. Only handle the seedling by the leaves, never the stems.
9. Protect from slugs, snails and other pests and keep well-watered.





'It's just more chilled and just being able to go outside and see my lovely babies growing. I love it. You can get your bin out easier, it looks nicer when you're walking past, I feel like it's lifted the tone of our little bit, a little bit.'



CARING FOR HERBS AND FLOWERS

Each flower and herb has its own requirements, but a few simple rules apply:

1. Ensure there is enough room for the plant to grow.
2. When growing in pots, turn the pots occasionally.
3. When watering, try to water the soil rather than the foliage as this can damage the plant.
4. Most flowers growing in pots benefit from a liquid feed every 6-8 weeks or you can make your own natural fertilizer by blending eggshells, coffee grounds and banana skins with a little water.
5. Harvest herbs from the tips regularly to keep them looking fresh.

WATERING AND DRAINAGE

3 things to remember:

1. Always water the base of the plant and the soil around it, rather than the leaves.
2. It's better to do your watering before 10am or after 6pm, when there is least risk of evaporation.
3. Make sure your plants are well drained so that the roots don't get water-logged and mouldy. This could be through holes in the bottom of pots, or for larger planters follow the top tip for making a filler on the opposite page.



TOP TIP

Larger pots and planters need a layer of material at the bottom of the pot for drainage. You could use gravel, foam take-away containers, crushed drinks cans, or polystyrene packing peanuts, which won't compact and you can make use of something you might have otherwise thrown away.



HOW TO PLANT FRUIT TREES

This is how to plant a new pot-grown or bare-root fruit tree in open ground. If you are planting in a patio pot or against a wall or trellis, you will still find some of this information useful.

Prepare and plant

- Make sure your fruit trees will pollinate – many will need other trees to ensure your trees produce fruit.
- Dig a hole on the day of planting.
- Planting fruit trees is a 2-person task, so recruit a friend or family member to help you
- Planting is best done on a dry day. Do not try to plant your trees if the ground is frozen or very wet.
- It is best to plant in topsoil, but if you have very poor soil use a mixture of topsoil and compost.
- Apply a mulch around the base of the tree and water well after planting.

Take care

- If you have rabbits or deer or similar animals in the area, you must protect your new fruit trees, you could do this by creating a chicken wire fence around the tree
- Make sure grass and weeds are kept well away from the base of the tree.
- Most new trees need a stake or post to support them while they get established. A proper tree stake (wood or metal) is best
- When pruning, observe the three D's: and remove dead, diseased or damaged wood and any branches that are crossing over each other. Generally, plums, cherries, gages, damsons and mirabelles should be pruned in late summer, and apples, pears, quince, medlars etc. should be pruned in the winter months once harvest has ended. Always use a clean, sharp pair of robust secateurs to make the cuts.



'I think it makes you a lot happier when you come out and you can see all the nice flowers and everything, I think it brightens your day up.'



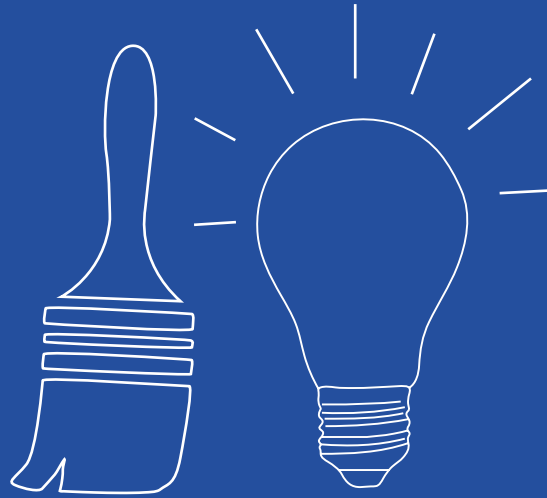
VEGETABLE PLANTING FRIENDS AND FOES

Some vegetables are better suited together, so it's a good idea to plant companions together to get the most out of your crop. This guide tells you which vegetables are friends and foes.

Vegetable	Friends	Foes
Asparagus	Tomatoes	None
Aubergine	Beans, pepper	None
Beans (Bush or Pole)	Celery, corn, cucumbers, radish, strawberries	Garlic and onion
Beetroot	Bush beans (not pole beans), cabbage, broccoli, kale, lettuce, onions, garlic	Pole beans
Cabbage Family (cabbage, broccoli, kale, Brussels sprouts)	Beetroot, celery, dill, Swiss chard, lettuce, spinach, onions, potatoes	Pole beans
Carrots	Beans, tomatoes	None
Celery	Beans, tomatoes, cabbages	None
Corn	Cucumber, squash, peas, beans, pumpkin	Tomatoes
Cucumber	Beans, corn, peas, cabbage	None
Onions	Beetroot, carrots, Swiss chard, lettuce, peppers	All beans and peas
Peas	Beans, carrots, corn, cucumbers, radish, turnip	Garlic, onions
Potatoes	Beans, corn, peas	Tomatoes
Squash	Corn, pumpkins	None
Tomatoes	Carrots, celery, cucumbers, onions, peppers	Corn, potatoes, kohlrabi







**BRIGHTENING UP
YOUR SPACE**

HOW TO REPOINT AN OLD BRICK WALL

Before mounting anything onto a brick wall you must make sure it's structurally safe to do so. If the mortar has been eroded out of brickwork you may need to consider repointing.



EQUIPMENT

- Goggles
- Rubber gloves
- Dust mask
- Bucket
- Plastering trowel
- Pointing trowel
- Screwdriver
- Hard brush
- Washing up liquid
- Container of water
- Sand
- Cement



STEP 1: MIX THE CEMENT

1. Put on goggles, rubber gloves and dust mask.
2. Using the square-edged trowel roughly measure out 4-parts sand and 1-part cement into the bucket.
3. Add some washing up liquid to the water, this will help the mixture plasticise.
4. Pour a small amount of the soapy water into the sand and cement.
5. Stir the mixture with the pointing trowel, adding more water if too thick and dry, or more cement and sand if it's too sloppy, until the mixture is a firm and moist consistency.



STEP 2: PREPARE THE WALL

1. Identify where needs re-pointing by spotting holes, cracks or loose mortar in the wall.
2. Poke out any loose mortar with a screwdriver. You can use a hammer to bang on the end of the screwdriver for the bits that are tougher to get out.
3. Scrub the surface with a hard brush to remove any leftover mortar and dust from the area.
4. If the wall has any moss or greenery in the way of the re-pointing, scrub it off with a hard brush.

Top tip: for extra adhesion mix PVA glue with water and brush it into the holes.



STEP 3: RE-POINTING

1. Using the pointing trowel smooth cement onto the plastering trowel, making a layer that is about as thick as the gap in between the bricks.
2. Scrape off any overflow of cement on the edges of the plastering trowel.
3. Hold the edge of the plastering trowel below the area you're repointing and scrape cement into the gap.
4. Smooth the cement into the wall and brush off any rough edges with a hard brush.

'I don't think people will litter as much, when they start to see what's been done I think they'll do better at taking care of it, and start respecting it a bit more.'



HOW TO INSTALL SOLAR LIGHTS

1. Ensure your wall is clean, dry and solid. If drilling into a brick wall, ensure holes go into bricks and not mortar.
2. Hold up lights and mark where holes need to be drilled with a pen.
3. Drill holes using SDS mains drill and masonry bit.
4. Insert rawl plugs, ensuring they are even with the brick.
5. Hold up light again and screw into place.



HOW TO MAKE A DECORATIVE TOADSTOOL

Equipment

- Cement
- Sand
- Jam jar
- Plastic bags
- Plastic tub
- Paper cup
- Metal spoon for stirring
- Protective gloves
- Stockings / old pair of tights
- Outdoor paints
- Decorative fairy

Mix cement

Mix 2 parts sand and 1 part cement with water in a plastic tub until slushy, so easy to stir but not runny.

To make the mushroom top

1. Put tights over a cup and spoon cement into tights.
2. Pull tights with cement out of the cup.
3. Tie a knot in the top of the tights.
4. Shape the mushroom top over a jar (put a plastic bag over the jar beforehand to make it easier to get off once set).
5. Leave to dry for 24 hours.

To make the stem

1. Put a plastic bag inside a paper cup.
2. Spoon cement into cup.
3. Leave to dry for 24 hours.

Assembling

1. Attach the stem to the mushroom top with a bit more cement. The bottom of the stem should be wider than the top so the toadstool stands up easily.
2. Leave to dry for 24 more hours.
3. Put outdoor varnish on or paint.
4. Use outdoor glue or cement to attach a decorative fairy.







**THIS IS A
LOVE WHERE YOU LIVE
STREET**

KEEP OUR ALLEYS CLEAN AND GREEN



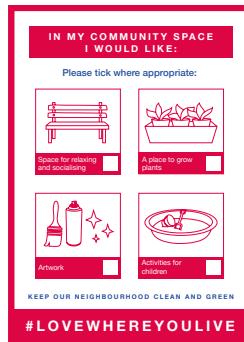


LOVE WHERE YOU LIVE RESOURCES

To support this guide Hubbub have put together a 'Love Where Your Live' resource pack, downloadable at www.hubbub.org.uk/lovewhereyoulive.



Flyer and event invite slips



Love Where You Live information board
You can use this to share information with what people can do with their bulky waste.



Window stickers



Gate sign



'People will fly-tip if there's lots of rubbish, where there always has been, it's always looked a mess despite cleaning it up a bit.

But the best thing that could come out of this to me, is that if we get all of this done and people don't put whole kitchens in the back, they don't put mattresses in the back, because it's nice, and they think it's a nice area and they don't want it to look bad.'

PARTNERING ORGANISATIONS

Hubbub is a charity that creates environmental campaigns with a difference. We're positive and design playful campaigns that inspire people to make healthier, greener lifestyle choices, which more often than not help save money and bring people together.



Oldham Council encourage residents to love where they live and show pride in their neighbourhoods and communities. They are a co-operative council who believe if we all do our bit then the borough will be a place where people want to live, work and visit.



IfOldham is a social enterprise improving the wellbeing of people and their local environment through practical action.





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colours
GARDEN COLOUR
SUITABLE FOR ALL TYPES OF GARDEN WOOD
WEATHER RESISTANT
EASY TO APPLY
DURABLE FINISH



Find out more at www.hubhub.org.uk/lovewhereyoulive or join the **#LoveWhereYouLive** campaign on social media.