



## Werbuzz Werbuzz - Project Brief

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This document focuses on the transformation of the existing car park and improvements and renewals to the perimeter gardens at St Werburghs Community Centre. It includes elements of landscaping, improving access, moving the recycling area and providing interactive play equipment, outdoor seating space, a sensory garden, and educational displays.

### Background

St Werburghs Community Centre is situated in the Bristol's inner city on the border of Easton and St Werburghs, directly adjacent to the M32 motorway. Although the community centre is extremely well attended (over 77,000 individual visits per year) our outdoor spaces are distinctly lacking in seating, play and educational facilities. We would like to change that, by expanding and improving our community gardens, and converting our underused and inaccessible car park into a community garden, play and event space.

In 2010 we completed £1m Capital Project – refurbishment of the main Victorian former school building and construction of a new eco-friendly four-room annexe. Following the launch we undertook extensive community consultations, which to date have involved over 500 service users and local residents. One of the areas identified by the community was the lack of accessible, safe outdoor space. The perimeter gardens were designed as a part of facilitated focus group activity and during 2011-12 we developed gardens with incorporated seating as a result.

Those gardens have been used since by our Raking & Baking Project – free 8-week cooking and gardening courses for adults of all backgrounds, socioeconomic status and mental and physical abilities. Our current raised beds made of recycled wood lasted only between three to five years; currently they are falling apart and are as such unusable.

We have evaluated the project, looked into long lasting alternatives and created a comprehensive plan for the outdoor spaces, which also includes the transformation of the car park into a garden, play, events and seating space.

### Aim

Our aim is to create an accessible, welcoming and interactive outdoor community space, which provides meaningful volunteering opportunities for local people, encourages community engagement, and can be used by local people as an outdoor recreational and educational space.



2010



2013



2016

St Werburghs Centre  
A Community Venue for East Bristol  
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Managed by St Werburghs Community Association

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Funded by HM Government



Registered Charity No: 1074495  
Company Limited by Guarantee No: 3713212  
St Werburghs Centre is grant aided by Bristol City Council





## Ambition

### **Car Park (south-facing)** the transformation will include:

- enclosed and safe gardens with incorporated seating
- relocating the recycling area to north-facing side of the buildings
- centred and sunken hexagonal play pit, which could double up as a performance space for activities such as story-telling and drama
- picnic-style tables with benches at each end of the hexagon surrounding the play pit
- on the left side: walled-garden-style fruit tree area with interactive insect-themed and sensory displays between the trees
- a spiral loose brick herb garden
- four triangular raised plant beds surrounding the seating with vertical trellises which will create a screen from the M32 motorway
- the right side walled garden: a smaller covered seating area which can be used for propagation during the gardening courses

### **Gatton Road (south-facing adjacent to the car park)**

- accessible wooden raised beds (two heights) with edible crops for education purposes, including root and leafy vegetables, edible flower garden
- sunken border on the railing side with fruit bushes and shrubs, climbing bean and pumpkin displays
- accessible footpath in the middle with three-side access to all raised beds
- a water butt with an integrated rainwater-harvesting and irrigation system
- a water feature to mask traffic noise
- bug boxes
- an arch with shaded seating

### **Merstham Road (east-facing)**

- a dedicated meditation and wellbeing garden emphasising smell, touch and taste, with medicinal herbs and wildflowers focused around the First World War memorial
- bee hives
- information boards and educational displays – insect-themed with interactive tools
- composting zone surrounded by fruit bushes, such as redcurrant and blackcurrant
- mosaic path

### **Horley Road (north-facing)**

- main entrance gate to the community centre via a ramp decorated with small window boxes, flower baskets and herb displays
- vibrant, colourful, year-round planting
- secure, covered cycle parking
- improved recycling area accessed by a separate double gate down the road



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