

South Ockendon Community Forum

Project Summary

Community projects in and around South Ockendon, including environmental and health related initiatives.

Background

South Ockendon is a large, post-war town. Housing and large scale industrial buildings dominate the surrounding rural landscape which contains extensive mineral workings and operational landfill sites. Social deprivation is high and there are large health inequalities in the area.

The Project

Since 1991, Thames Chase has worked with the local residents, Thurrock Council and other partners on environmental and social projects under the title of 'The South Ockendon Community Forum'. The Forum contributes advice, management time, help in obtaining grants and opportunities for volunteers to contribute their skills to the Forum's projects.

What has been achieved?

Here are a few examples:

Thurrock Healthy Living Centre

– The Centre was set up in 2002. Thames Chase is a key partner, responsible for the Outdoor Activities Group which arranges events that promote a healthy, outdoor lifestyle.

Healthy Walks – Thames Chase contributed a small grant from South Essex Health to the establishment of a healthy walking group. The group now has over 60 members who are predominantly over 50 and with little previous experience of walking in the countryside. The group organises a

weekly outing and has obtained sponsorship to fund a walks leaflet and its transport costs.

Community Gardens Project

– Under this scheme, local people assist in identifying and enhancing areas of neglected open space in the town; then Thames Chase and BTCV negotiate an enhancement and management scheme with landowners and local authorities. Local businesses often provide in-kind support while residents take responsibility for the management of the sites. Thames Chase has also been able to assist in obtaining Community Action Grants to fund the gardens.



KEY FACTS	
DATES	2000 – ongoing
Partners	South Ockendon Community Forum, Healthy Living Centre, BTCV, South Essex Health Authority, Thurrock Primary Care Trust
Costs	Dilkes Park £25,000, Health Walks – not available, Community Garden approx. £10,000/garden including in kind contributions
Funder(s)	BTCV, Countryside Agency, Countryside Agency Community Action Grant for relevant projects
Size/scale	Engagement with a community of approx. 20,000 residents