

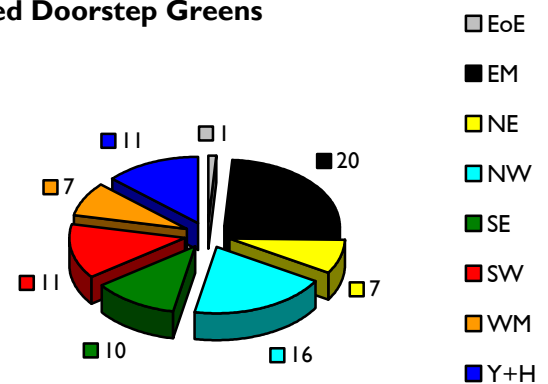
Doorstep Greens

Monthly Report: November 2005

1. Completed Projects

- 84 Doorstep Greens are now fully complete.
- See table below (right) for the latest Doorstep Greens to be completed during the last month.
- Previous monthly reports, showing the names of sites already completed are available under the 'Resources' link on: www.countryside.gov.uk/doorstepgreens

Completed Doorstep Greens (by region)



The following greens started work in November:

Site	Location
Coniston Green	North West Somerset
Beaford Doorstep Green	Devon

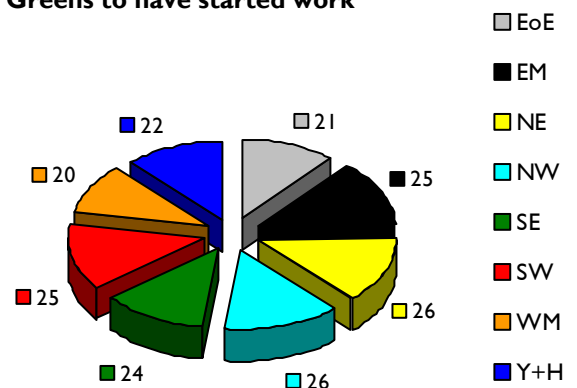
The following greens completed site works in November:

Site	Location
Alford Memorial Park	Lincolnshire

2. Progress of Projects

- 189 Doorstep Greens have started work on site to date
- Two new Doorstep Green projects started work during November

Doorstep Greens to have started work (by region)



3. Doorstep Greens Monitor

Stewart Harding, The Parks Agency (The consultants evaluating Doorstep Greens)

Doorstep Greens did enable communities to make a difference, but did not necessarily address the reasons why the site fell into decline in the first place. The reality is that local authorities let their green spaces run down because they didn't have the resources to maintain them.

Some of the sites we looked at were still owned and managed by local authorities. In those cases, what this means is that the community won't let them get away with neglecting it. But some of the more fragmented communities, especially those who have taken on ownership, are probably going to struggle.

The good thing about this scheme is also its weakness. Unlike its predecessor, Millennium Greens, it specifically targeted disadvantaged communities. But they're the communities who are least likely to sustain the project: they have less time for community involvement, less awareness of the opportunities for funding, and are less able to access that funding – all the reasons, in other words, why these communities don't get a fair crack of the whip.

I do think local authorities are the right people to look after public open spaces. The problem is that CCT made such a huge saving, but what they didn't realise is that the guy cutting the grass is also providing a presence, a form of surveillance.... they didn't account for that.

Maybe one answer is to include long-term maintenance in the budget. Or staff, split between several sites. Another way forward might be a modification of the Countryside Stewardship Scheme, where farmers are offered up to 10 years revenue funding and can also apply for capital money for things like new gates... It would have to be re-written for parks, but it would be a way of harnessing the community goodwill, with proper on-going funding attached.

The trouble is, because parks are non-statutory, they're always in a weak position when it comes to funding. You have to have libraries, you have to have schools and refuse collection... So in the end it's a political choice

Read more about evaluating Doorstep Greens on the 'evaluation' link at www.countryside.gov.uk/doorstepgreens

4. Photo of the month

Site opening: Kettlebridge, Sheffield.

The site was acquired by Sheffield City Council in the 1980's following the demolition of some unfit housing and a factory and subsequently grassed. Local children used the site as an informal play space, although given it's surrounded by roads and, at the time, had no boundary fencing, this was less than ideal. Problems with fly tipping on the site, particularly from local fast food outlets, also encouraged vermin on to the site, which further increased residents concerns.

In April 2003, local residents took it upon themselves to do something about the site. Working in partnership with Sheffield City Council through the Darnall Green Spaces Regeneration Project, they formed Kettlebridge Doorstep Green Action Group, to take forward the idea of creating a safer, useable community space.

After many months of consulting the local community, applying for match funding, resolving legal issues etc, the site was formally opened to the public on 19 November 2005 by local Councillor David Barker.

Photo Credit: Helen Briggs of the Darnall Green Spaces Regeneration Project



The site now boasts new footpaths, seating, boundary fencing and planting, a kick-about area, an informal play area for younger children and two feature entrance archways, incorporating ideas from local children.

See more photos of Doorstep Greens on the 'Resources' are of our [website](http://www.countryside.gov.uk/doorstepgreens).

5. Further information:

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6. Networking

Communicate online and get all the latest news – not just for Doorstep Greens, but across the whole parks and green spaces scene.

www.greenspace.net.countryside.gov.uk