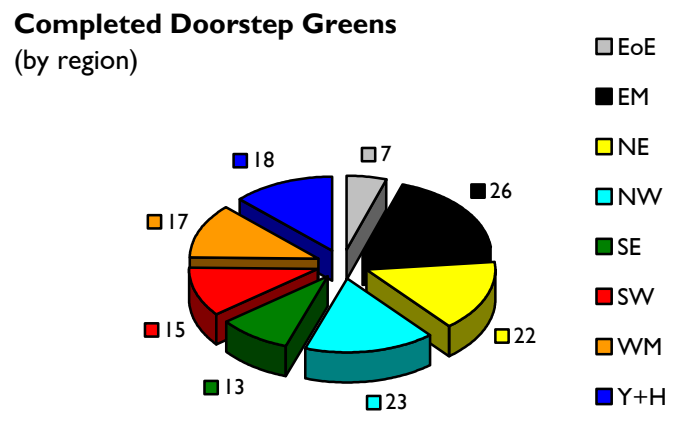


Doorstep Greens

Monthly Report: October 2006

1. Completed Projects

- 141 Doorstep Greens are now complete and open to the public.
- Previous monthly reports, showing the names of sites already completed are available under the 'Resources' link on: www.countryside.gov.uk/doorstepgreens

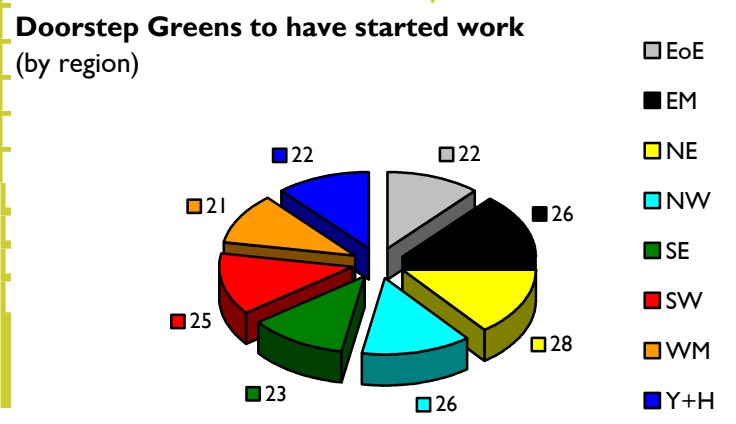


The following DGs were completed during October
 For the purposes of this report, 'complete' means that a site is open and accessible to the public, although some minor works may still need to be carried out before the all the DG grant is fully claimed and paid.

| Project title | Location |
|-----------------------|------------------|
| Yarm Doorstep Green | Stockton-on-Tees |
| Chuckery Green | Walsall |
| Willington Town Green | County Durham |
| Pyramid Park | Stockton-on-Tees |

2. Progress of Projects

- 193 Doorstep Greens have started work on site to date and this concludes all the creation work start dates for Doorstep Greens.
- The target number of Doorstep Greens was between 180 and 220.



3. Doorstep Greens Monitor - Pete Johnstone, DG Project Manager



I visited three urban Doorstep Greens in Bristol recently and was abruptly reminded of the need for continuing 'holistic' management and maintenance of these precious green spaces.

Cloverdown, for example is a haven for wildlife with wonderful views across the city and is now, thanks to local efforts, a much more safe, accessible and enjoyable place to visit - the passion of the lady who showed us around the site was evidence that some local people really do care. But fly-tipping on the site is an increasing problem that has been brought about by new household waste rules (brought in to increase recycling on the housing estate). The result is one environmental gain (i.e. more recycling) impacting negatively on another environmental gain - an improved green space.

I suspect the solution is a mixture of better enforcement to stop fly-tipping and better public awareness to explain why fly-tipping is so antisocial. Ongoing revenue funding to establish a 'caretaker' presence on site, to help maintain the green and to encourage positive involvement would help, but funding for those activities are always hard to find.

Clifton Place, in Easton, is in a large multicultural community, where work on the green has been ongoing now for some three years and the new green essentially replaces a disused toilet block and hard standing that stood there before. ([See our case study 1: Tackling crime and drug abuse](#)) The Doorstep Green is largely complete and I was keen to see how the transformation had developed. I was not disappointed. The green was in near perfect condition with no litter, a number of small flowerbeds, a compost bin and neatly cut grass. The community gardener who showed us around was proud of the fact that local people took an interest in the green and I am confident, that with just one or two improvements, the green would win a Green Pennant Award.

My final visit was to Somerset Square Doorstep Green, just a mile or so from the city centre and surrounded by high-rise blocks of flats. We met the group in the community centre and I was immediately struck by the amount of environmental information they had up on the walls along with their Green Pennant. The group had also won a Bristol in Bloom Award as well as a Britain in Bloom Award and were rightly proud of their achievements. The completed Doorstep Green itself looked very good and it was the local green space for the many residents that overlooked the green. The residents group was also developing new green space projects around the council estate and even had plans for a community orchard - proof that when effective partnerships come together well - they can make significant environmental and social improvements and show the real value of having well managed green space on your doorstep.

4. Photo of the month

Top Marks The latest collection of photos of DG signs.



View more photos of Doorstep Greens on the 'Resources' are of our [website](#).

5. Further information:

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6. Networking

Communicate online and get all the latest news – not just for Doorstep Greens, but almost 1,000 members across the whole parks and green spaces scene.

www.greenspace.net.countryside.gov.uk