

GREENING CATHAYS

An insight into Cathays
residents' perceptions of
Community Health and
Wellbeing

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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Human Health module (SI0620)
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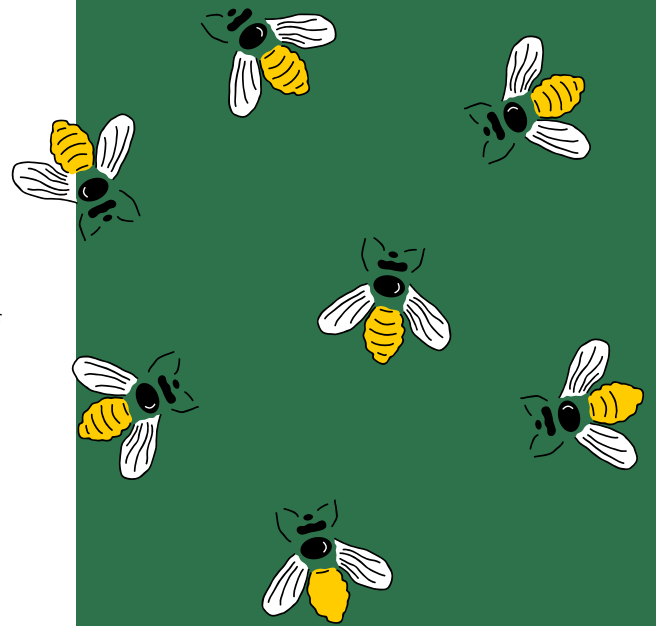
School of
Social Sciences
Ysgol y Gwyddorau
Cymdeithasol



OVERVIEW

The Greening Cathays project aims to build on Cardiff University's ambition to work with Cardiff City Council, implementing activities to engage local communities in greenspaces to enhance both individual and community health and wellbeing. This work aims to improve and enhance the relationship between short-term (student) and long term residents of Cathays by engaging them in joint greening activities, such as designing, building, and planting pollinator gardens and greenspaces.

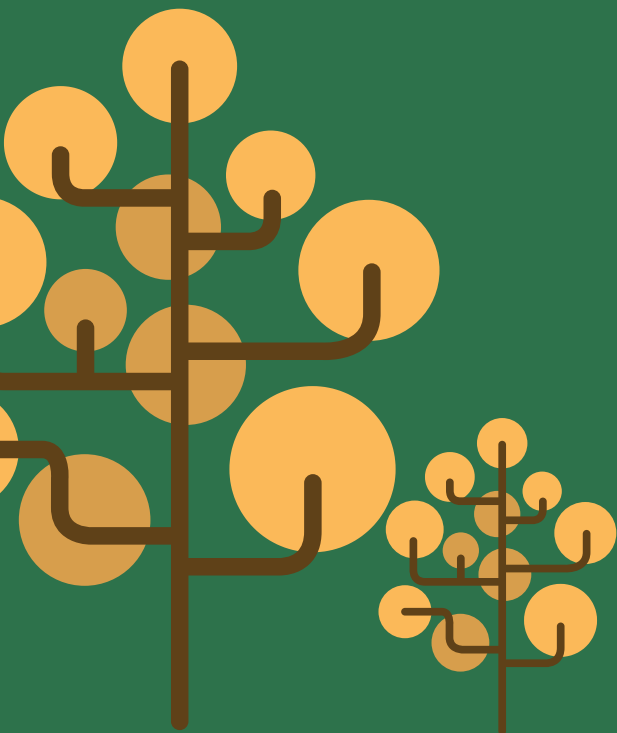
It is hoped that the Greening Cathays project will contribute to the development of the new Cardiff University Ecological Restoration and Biodiversity Action Plan (ERBAP).



METHODOLOGY

80 semi-structured 'go-along' interviews, were conducted by a class of third-year Social Science students at Cardiff University in 6 different locations in Cathays.

The project used both qualitative and quantitative methods; qualitative in the form of semi-structured interviews and quantitative data when the interview data was input into a Qualtrics survey, creating descriptive statistics in the form of graphs and charts. Qualitative themes were derived by each student. The key themes are included here (Braun and Clarke 2006).



FINDINGS

Three themes emerged: studentification, wellbeing, and engagement in community (greening projects). Overall, Cathays' residents felt that the local area in which they lived had become dominated by students. Local communities (both residents and students) found their local communities generally dirty and lacking in 'nature' and greenery. They were pessimistic in the short term about what change will happen given that they feel student and university needs are being prioritized.

However, they are positive in the longer term that by involving the community in developments that promote greenspaces and biodiversity that there will be positive change.

The findings from this research show how a community such as Cathays have been affected by studentification physically and spatially for the environment, but also socially for the residents living in Cathays, which has led to the diminishment of the relationship between students and non-students.



CONCLUSIONS

In terms of developing Cathays, residents confirmed they felt there was a need for more greenspace to improve the overall aesthetic and promote community wellbeing.

Community wellbeing could increase from the higher presence of greenspace as well as using the greenspace in a social capacity to bring the community together.

Overall, this report concludes that it is important to continue to build the partnership between Cardiff University and Cardiff City Council. Such a partnership will seek to improve the biodiversity of the local area, and to provide insight into the barriers and opportunities that affect the capacity of the local community to contribute to these projects.

RECCOMENDATIONS FOR FUTURE RESEARCH

Future student-led research projects should consider the effects of studentification and transiency on localities and communities within Cardiff. It is felt that CU projects like Pharmabees may benefit the local community whether through education, an increase in biodiversity or working with our partners for community development.

