

# MONKSCROFT COMMUNITY ACTION GROUP



## 1. Green shoots...



In the first report of 2021, amidst the pressures of the new lockdown, home working, home schooling etc. we wanted to share a little bit of spring cheer. These are photos recently taken in our communal garden. Little green shoots peeping through the bark chips underneath our recently planted apple tree, and

the first crocus just opening in our lawn. All around us, the work we put in last year is beginning to yield results (not just in the gardens), and despite the Covid-19 restrictions delaying some of our planned projects, the work of the group goes on.

## 2. Re-seeding the lawns.



As you can see from this photograph, there are large bare patches in our lawn, which have needed re-seeding for a while. Now that the leaves are off the trees, we have used turf from the location of the raised bed to patch the edges of the lawn, spread topsoil on the worst affected areas, and sowed a shade-tolerant variety of grass seed. We were fortunate enough to be able to borrow some

fencing materials from our partners at CBH, preventing people and dogs from trampling the seedlings until the new lawn has become established. We have also planted 100 new crocus bulbs in the lawn, which should provide some early spring colour, but be over before the mowing starts. We look forward to seeing our new lawn grow over the coming months.

## 3. New gardening classes – Spring 2021.

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Staying with the gardens, we are planning to continue with the gardening class we ran last year in conjunction with CBH and Adult-Education. Covid-19 regulations permitting, we hope to start the sessions again in March, and posters promoting the course will be up next week.

## 4. New noticeboards.



We are very much obliged to the tenancy management team at CBH for their assistance in sourcing these spanking new noticeboards. These have been installed right across the neighbourhood, and we are now in the process of producing bespoke content (the picture is a mock-up with draft posters), which will be displayed across Monkscroft. We will be constantly updating this content

throughout the year, and a MAG representative in each block will have a key to facilitate this.

## 5. Maintenance work.



Towards the end of last year, representatives from MAG, CBH, and Snape contracting conducted a walkabout around Monkscroft, with a view to carrying out some maintenance work, and resolving some long-standing issues in the area. I am pleased to say that work is underway and ongoing, with paths and fences being repaired. In addition, representatives from MAG and CBH are now conducting regular inspections of the neighbourhood to ensure that issues are raised and dealt with promptly. We will be following-up on the progress of the work and offering the support of our volunteers as and

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when they are needed. By working together in a constructive and collegiate manner, we are seeing a transformation of our environment, and we're just getting started...

## 6. Anti-social behaviour.



Yet again, our unsung heroes are working behind-the-scenes on this problem. According to 'Street-Check,' just one crime was recorded in Monkscroft last month, and enforcement action has been initiated over dog-fouling & bullying.

## 7. Cleaning-up.



As part of the programme of works I mentioned earlier, our paths, yards and bin-stores are being jet-washed. Look at this yard for an example, beautifully clean! Our volunteers will now be working to keep up this standard in future. As these yards are such sun traps, we are intending to set-up some temporary greenhouses in the late spring, to grow tomatoes, cucumbers, peppers, salad leaves etc. Cheap to do, but potentially a source of free, healthy, fresh food for our residents, particularly those who are struggling to cope and relying on tins from food banks. We hope to spread this type of initiative across the whole of Monkscroft in the coming year, working in tandem

with our gardening group, and with our partner organisations to drive things forward at pace.

The less good news is that, apart from a one-man trial run, we have as yet been unable to deploy our new pressure washer, to begin our 'Deep-Clean' initiative. Indoors, and generating an aerosol spray, there is no safe way of doing this during the Covid-19 pandemic, so we have decided to defer the project until it can be done safely. Our common passageways are still filthy dirty, and are long overdue for a deep-clean, but it will have to wait...



## 8. Planning ahead...

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