

## LEECHWELL GARDEN: STRATEGY AND MAINTENANCE UPDATE

I joined Save Our Space 20 years ago, becoming project leader for LGA and Totnes Development Trust from 2005 to 2012 during the design, funding, implementation and delivery phases. I am pleased to say that the community's project was brought in on time and under budget.

For if there is one thing I like more than having projects, it is completing them. When I again became LGA Chair, I asked members for their ideas on future strategy. The 4 main areas were making the space more like a garden than a playground; encouraging wildlife; increasing public art, and improving communication with the community and SHDC.

As you can see from the red ticks, work on the strategy is nearing completion. For the first task, I replanted the 4 beds around the pergola and designed and created 9 more with 2 in progress, almost quadrupling the number of flower beds. These photos show some of the changes in maintenance. I have even been asked if it is private garden! In the second area, we have perhaps been a bit too successful in encouraging wildlife, but the new table, Robin's sculpture and the information board are welcome pieces of art and communication. I am particularly pleased to have finally managed to create a more positive relationship with SHDC. Items still in progress are the Woodland Garden with Ernesto and a comms strategy with Rory. I also asked Shirley for an update on the Pool Project.

However, I also have my own project that I have been working on for 40 years. I want to complete this work while I still can – at 80, I don't have that much time left, so I am regretfully stepping down from all my committees, including LGA, to focus on it. I will continue as a volunteer with Ernesto on the Woodland Garden but I am handing over all my other activities, including maintenance and running the volunteer sessions. Here is a brief list, plus the outstanding tasks for SHDC this winter.

I am sure that new, younger members will take the Garden forward as the green heart of the community.

Sue Holmes 5.12.23