



The Triangle Cinderford, Gloucestershire

Client:
Real Ideas Organisation/
Cinderford town
regeneration team

Children's views lead the ideas for improving a streetscape

A public space at the centre of Cinderford, the Triangle is being regenerated through funding from the National Coalfields Programme.

Despite refurbishment in the 1990s, it is recognised that the space needs reshaping, tackling traffic and pedestrian access while supporting events such as a weekly market. These improvements form part of broader regeneration plans for the former mining town.

Workshop aims

Cinderford Town Council's regeneration team, working with the Real Ideas Organisation commissioned the Architecture Centre, Bristol, to run a Spaceshaper 9-14 workshop to involve young people in the project.

"It's really interesting to get young voices involved," says Wendy Jackson, regeneration manager at Forest of Dean District Council. "There's a really open and honest approach. If you ask a question, you will get a straight response."

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Who took part and what happened?

Pupils from Ruardean Primary School took part, visiting the site and engaging in structured activities aimed at establishing their views on the Triangle. "A lot of the kids hadn't even been into the town centre before," comments Wendy. "That was evidence in itself that their parents shop outside the local area."

Participants voted to express their opinions on a range of themes. Analysis and debate showed how the Triangle was considered to be poorly maintained and an unimportant space by the young people. "This sort of data feeds into the regeneration process," Wendy explains. "We need to prove to funders that we respond to community need. Spaceshaper 9-14 is all part of our evidence."

A raft of improvements were suggested, such as cleaning up the space, planting more trees and installing a modern sculpture. "The ideas help us to formulate detailed design briefs," says Wendy. Work is expected to start on site this autumn.

Katie Lea, urban landscape designer adds: "The children very much felt like their views would be taken into consideration by the people managing the regeneration of the town."

