



# Images for Change

Regeneration -  
death or new life  
for communities

Feb 06 - Nov 07



## Introduction

The **Images for Change** project was initiated by Church Action on Poverty North East at the beginning of 2006 in the context of their 10-year commitment to Church Action on Poverty's **Local People - National Voice** programme.

However, *Images for Change* broke new ground in two ways. Firstly, its aim was to give a stronger voice to disadvantaged communities rather than to disadvantaged individuals. Secondly, it used photography to tell the story of five communities along the River Tyne, recognising that images can speak more powerfully than words.

Five communities along the River Tyne: Benwell & Scotswood, Teams, Walker, Rekendyke and the Meadow Well - captured their own powerful images to tell of their experience of regeneration and its effect on their families' lives over the years. They also speak clearly of hopes for the future.

Local events were held in each community at the end of 2006, involving about 500 people, including local politicians, regeneration officers and academics. But, above all, the events were a celebration of the life of the communities

Cross-community visits to areas with similar histories in Manchester and Glasgow, and two Tyneside workshops, have enabled the communities to identify key issues and aspirations which they first presented to Church Action on Poverty's National Conference, held at Gateshead's Civic Centre in November '07.

The overarching concern was that each successive wave of redevelopment or regeneration had been focussed on their areas, rather than on their communities, and had characteristically been carried out at the expense of their communities. Yet, there is still a sizeable core of families from the

original communities living in each area, who have survived against all odds and who have a huge investment in their area. The call to recognise and build on the strength of these core communities is very timely, when, on the one hand, central government is insisting on community engagement and social inclusion, while on the other hand, planners and developers focus on notional, more affluent communities, which they hope to attract into these areas in the future. Our message to them is: *Don't ignore the riches under your feet!*

*"These core communities are gold dust, not coal dust"*

Initial responses were made by a panel representing national and local politicians, Government Office North East and church leaders.

We now present in this report the:

- Key issues urgently waiting to be addressed
- An account of the origins of the project
- The work and stories of each community
- The cross community workshops
- The community visits on Tyneside and to Manchester and Glasgow
- The National Conference with Initial Responses
- The next steps - a conclusion in the making

## Key issues

The following five key areas of concern were identified across the communities:

### Community Spirit ■ Housing ■ Jobs & Training ■ Young People ■ People Power

There follows a presentation of the primary concerns shared by the communities within each key theme.

#### Community Spirit



*Vickers employed 20,000 then - now it's only a few hundred*

- Our communities have resilience borne out of hardship: hard work in heavy industries, making ends meet on low incomes, struggling with ill health, going through the pain of losing our homes to demolition and redevelopment sometimes more than once.

Supporting each other comes naturally - we understand what other people are going through because we have been through it ourselves.

We want you to recognise what has sustained our communities all these years as well as imagining what might make some future community sustainable.

- Some of our families have lived in our communities for generations. Some of us have chosen to return to our communities. We have the history of our communities which gives us authority. So, don't push us aside for a community with more money and people who will only sleep here and live their lives somewhere else.



*"The Yemeni Community have lived in our area for over a hundred years"*

- Many of us put in more hours doing voluntary work in our communities than any paid worker and we have stayed the course, while paid workers have come and gone. Value our voluntary work by giving it the resources it needs. We have a huge investment in our community - so take us seriously.



#### Housing

- In the '60s and '70s a lot of poor quality private rented housing was demolished. Communities were broken up and new roads divided some of our communities in two.



But a lot of new council housing was built at that time.

Now a lot of council housing is being demolished, communities are being broken up - private developers are building new houses for sale, many of which are being bought by private landlords for rent.



At the same time we are losing our services: shops, banks, schools, buses, churches etc.

We need responsible social landlords and good community facilities to maintain the long-term stable communities we have known in the past.

- In our communities, very few people can afford to buy houses and definitely can't afford to pay more than £100,000. We need council and housing association houses with affordable rents £50-£70. We hope our region will lead the way in taking the opportunities being proposed by Gordon Brown and his government to provide this



*"We worry about where our grand children will live"*

- We want mixed communities: young and old, married and single, families of all shapes and sizes and backgrounds and suitable housing for the wide range of people that make up our communities eg: bungalows for the growing number of older and disabled people.



*"If we had bungalows like this on our estate, pensioners would happily move, leaving houses for families"*

Supported housing for young people as a stepping stone to independent living.

## Jobs & Training

- All our communities grew up around large heavy industries along the Tyne shipyards, fishing, armaments and the pits. Generations of our families worked for them. These key employers like Swans & Vickers have been in decline, in some cases since the '50s and have now almost disappeared.



*"Since the shipyard closed my dad has nowhere to work"*

- We still need employers of manual workers based in our areas - even if they are smaller employers than in the past, like those based in Whitehouse Enterprise Centre in Benwell (you can't afford to travel on low wages).



*"The man who owns this business lives in our street but, this local enterprise centre is for demolition"*

We need secure jobs with decent wages and working condition.

- The bridge between benefit and work still isn't working.  
People in training should be financially better off than those simply signing on.
- We need more training for all ages, especially in manual trades like Building Futures East in Walker.
- Apprenticeships are few and far between and you need academic qualifications (GCSEs) to get on to them.

Young people need personal support to get through training.



## Young People

- Children and young people have no voice and the media stories about them are mostly negative. Children and young people have been involved in Images for Change and next year they will be the main focus. We need support to make their hopes happen. They are the future of our communities.



- Vandalism, violence, drugs and alcohol threaten children and young people. Young people threaten adults when they engage in vandalism, violence, drugs and alcohol. Together we can break the cycle.



- Young people need access to:
  - Decent housing with affordable rents and personal support.
  - Decent jobs with fair wages.
  - Better leisure facilities with low cost access.

It is mostly voluntary organisations running on a shoestring who deliver what is needed at community level. Give us the resources we need for our young people and we will give you more than value for money.



## People Power

- We have been through a lot of consultation and know that most of it is just talk.

*"Let's have less patter and more substance"*

- Take the time to explain how all your departments work and fit together or sometimes don't work and fit together and we'll explain what does and doesn't work in our community. Arrange meetings that respect our needs and commitments as well as your own and give us the chance to play an equal part.
- Neighbourhood Action Plans should be developed with the community (this is more than consultation) and Neighbourhood Management should be accountable to the community to make sure our neighbourhoods are cared for and kept clean and safe for all our families – young and old.

*"Don't promise us the earth and give us a plant pot"*



- Small improvements can take a very long time, while all the emphasis is on uncertain plans which will take 15+ years to deliver. Let's build on the present and take steady steps together towards regeneration - for surer, sustainable growth.
- Give value to our evidence and experience, equal to that of other experts, and together we will develop plans that really will bring new life to our communities.

## Origins of the Images for Change Project

Members of the CAPNE group from the East End of Newcastle asked to host the Poverty Action Sunday 05 event in Walker because they felt their community was at a 'kairos' moment in the regeneration process. Initially, the idea was to invite members of the Walker community to tell their story, using the image of peeling back the layers of an onion to reveal the heart of the community, which was pictured being held up in a boat by a strong woman. However, as we struggled to find enough willing speakers from Walker, we turned to our contacts in other riverside communities (Meadow Well, Benwell & Teams). Even CAPNE core members were astounded at the result.



### As each speaker told their personal story, a common cyclical pattern emerged of:

- post-war decline of the heavy industries that lined the Tyne
- the first wave of crude demolition of the old terraces and dispersal of communities
- followed by deepening unemployment in the '80s
- further selective demolition, leaving artificially divided and struggling communities depleted of community facilities and resources to face
- a more 'radical' approach, in the case of Newcastle, called 'Going for Growth' and the political fall out that followed the controversial proposals



- an almost biblical remnant left grappling with yet further proposals for redevelopment (in one case, an academy imposed; in another, a school and church closed).

### In all this the unanswered questions 'For whose benefit? In whose interests?'

While the community speakers recognised where significant improvements in quality of life had been achieved, they felt it was often at the expense of their greatest strength - their community. It became apparent that there was a voice here, that had not been able to influence the course of redevelopment/regeneration in these areas, in a sustained and effective way.

Moreover it became very clear that at the heart of these communities there were values that could help the whole region to develop in a more sustainable and human way (ref. Prof. Fred Robinson's reflection 'GNP is a flawed measure..... etc. in Millfield House Foundations report).

On reflection it seemed that CAPNE might have a role to play in enabling that community voice to be heard more effectively. We did not want to reinvent the wheel of Poverty Hearings and conscious of the role that photography has already played; telling the story of these communities and giving them a higher profile eg:

Byker Photography project

Amber's work in North Tyneside

Daisy Hill Exhibition, then on show at the Discovery Museum

Jimmy Forsyth's work and the photographic collection of the West End Local Studies group.

We decided to explore with representatives of the communities, the idea of using photography to enable a wider cross-section of people from the riverside communities to engage in telling their stories. This would be first step in finding a stronger voice in relation to present and future developments in their areas.

## Stage I



### The Work in the Communities

We decided to launch this initiative on Poverty Action Sunday '06 at St Mary's R.C. Cathedral in Newcastle. Over 150 people, many from the communities, witnessed the Bishop distribute cameras to community representatives, who were commissioned to go back to their communities to encourage people to take photographs in response to the following questions:

- What makes you/your family special?
- What makes your community the community it is?
- What struggles have people been through and do you face today?
- What do you want to build on for the future?
- What do you want to get rid of?
- What is your hope for your community – your Dream?

The task began of taking and collecting photographs to tell the story of the communities.

Each community approached the task in its own distinctive way and worked towards holding its own local Images for Change event by the end of the year. Each community tells its own story as follows:

## Rekendyke



The work in Rekendyke found a focus in the new community house, home of the community development wing of the Rekendyke Partnership, which includes representatives from St Jude's and St Bede's Churches, the Mosque, and Gudwara, as well as voluntary groups like Blissability and the Children's Society.

The process started at a café-style evening at St Jude's church, when 35 residents recorded their views on the above questions on paper cloths as they moved from table to table. Activists from the community house then took an Images for Change roadshow around various locations in the area.



Then a photography competition was launched. Nine local people took photographs which highlighted some of the changes which had taken place in the area and shared stories of their families as they lived through those changes.



*"Frederick Street has lost its character and its shops"*

This work inspired the idea of making a DVD which would bring the stories and the images together. The DVD was previewed at a regeneration event about the riverside development at the Customs House and was formally launched at our Images event 'Past Present and Future of Rekendyke'.

## Meadow Well

The work in Meadow Well has been focussed in the Drop In at the Cedarwood Centre, with people being encouraged to bring in old photos as well as take new photographs. The half term week in October '06 was dedicated to the Images for Change work. Over 90 residents contributed as well as local workers from North Shields PETE group, North Tyneside Community network and a local councillor. Each day a discussion of life on Meadow Well took place. Contributors included:



- a former skipper of a fishing boat who brought photos and talked about his life at sea and of how the once thriving North Shields Fish Quay is only a shadow of how things were
- a woman who had worked in a local '70s trading estate built to replace the traditional industries, which led to compiling a list of past and present employers in the area
- a veteran community campaigner shared her experiences which helped people to reflect on how much the changes which had taken place were for the better and how much was just for appearances (cosmetic).



## Walker

A core group set the ball rolling in Walker and over 30 community groups became involved taking over 900 photographs between them. Sr Josepha, head of St Vincent's school and Phil Kitchen, veteran community education worker, were key animators with support from local authority officers.



*"Community spirit is alive and well – Walker people are the salt of the earth"*

Images and stories flooded in: men in Walker, kids, families spanning four generations and community celebrations which are Walker's forte - then the negative side: prison like fences and railings, old drug dens, alcohol shops, graffiti, holes in the road and empty shipyards.



*"Don't fence me in"*

After much discussion, the main exhibition emerged following themes of the original questions (see above). But, each group also had their own space, so every photo was displayed in hard copy as well as being projected onto a screen at the great community celebration at the Lightfoot Centre in November '06, which was opened by the Lord Mayor and Queen Vi of Walker.





## Benwell and Scotswood



*"We have a much  
pleasanter outlook but  
fewer jobs and  
houses."*



*"Our communities are  
much more diverse  
these days."*

Here, most of the work took place through local tenants and residents associations, facilitated by Pendower Good Neighbour Project, with contributions from: young people, facilitated by Scotswood Strategy; from older people through SEARCH and reflections on volunteering as a route to paid employment from Riverside Community Health Project, with West End Community Development Consortium acting as the mediator for those contributions. The West End Local History Picture Collection was an invaluable source of older pictures which helped to document the changes through the years.

The exhibition was framed around the story of four neighbourhoods with albums of two x four generation families.

It also covered: employment past and present, 'All Change', the story of our secondary schools and a view of the distinctive buildings which have given Benwell and Scotswood their character, together with their 'communities of steel' who have survived!



Events took place in November '06 in St Margaret's Church, Scotswood and in Benwell Library with about 140 people taking part including councillors, an M.P. and regeneration officers.



## Teams

Ill health on the part of some key characters prevented this community fully participating in the early stages of the project. But, working through the Holy Rosary Church and Tyneview School, both of which will no longer be standing by the end of the project, they have adopted a 'Grand Old Duke of York' approach ie: 'when the buildings were up' and 'when the buildings came down'.



They traced the history from the demolition of the Old Askew Road, "where you could buy anything", through the redevelopment of the '60s and '70s, when the poor quality private rented housing was replaced by council housing, but the community was split in two by the construction of a dual carriageway.



Then they looked at the more recent redevelopment which has created a pleasanter environment but has resulted in the loss of facilities like school, church, shops, bus service.

*"Yes - we've got a better outlook  
but no shops and just one bus  
to Gateshead - just to buy a  
packet of salt!"*



***We can in no way do justice in this report to all the stories and actions which took place in each of the communities but key contacts for each of the communities are provided at the end of the Report should you wish to learn more.***

## Stage 2

### The First Joint Workshop

Representatives of the communities (about 40 in number) came together for the first time in February '07, when Anne Stewart of Community Pride, Manchester facilitated a workshop in the West End of Newcastle. The morning was spent listening to the stories of the different communities before moving on in the afternoon to begin to identify some common key themes.

In March '07 the communities came back together to refine those themes, which were as stated earlier:

- Community Spirit ■ Housing ■ Jobs & Training ■
- Young People ■ People Power ■

Each community selected three photos from their collection which helped them to say what was important about each theme. At the request of the community representatives, a tour of each others communities was arranged followed by visits to communities in Manchester and Glasgow

### The First Tyne Tour

This took place in May, when a coach with video and microphone was hired and community members provided the commentary, as we drove through their areas.

Starting in Rekendyke, we heard about the riverside development proposed to replace the old industrial area, listened to the story of the Yemeni community and the role of the Mosque in the area and learned about the Rekendyke Partnership.



We watched a video made by the Rekendyke community as we drove to Meadow Well, where, over coffee, we explored the difficulties experienced in maintaining the voice of the community at every stage of development and explored the experience of cosmetic improvements versus real improvements in quality of life and standard of living.

As we drove through Walker, we heard about the diverse experiences of different neighbourhoods in the current redevelopment: those who were pleased with improved homes, those who had fought for the "Walker Promise" of "like-for-like replacement homes" and those awaiting demolition. We were impressed with the manual trades training centre Building Futures East.

We joined the Teams community for lunch and viewed their exhibition depicting their history as described above and were heartened by the strength of their community spirit, despite the recent tragedy of the burning of their church, which has now been replaced by flats.



*"It broke our heart to see the church burnt down. New houses built on the site have been bought by private landlords."*

We ended the day in Scotswood where we viewed the sites of the Accademy School and the proposed Expo Village and heard of the successful Neighbourhood Management Scheme which has helped alleviate some of the environmental and community safety problems experienced during the massive clearance programme, carried out to pave the way for new development.



### Manchester and Salford Visit

In July '07 representatives from the communities visited communities in Manchester who had been involved in the Community Pride Initiative, which sought to give communities a stronger voice in New Deal for Communities.



In Beswick we visited communities who were fighting compulsory purchase orders and whose streets were blighted by their uncertain future.

On the main road, from East Manchester into the city centre, we saw a Scandinavian-style development, which looked very attractive, but we learnt was full of design flaws and was quite unsuitable for family living. We heard of the costliness of shared ownership schemes and saw the devastation of the community that this development was replacing.

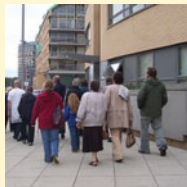


In Salford we visited the Seedley & Langworthy Development Trust, where the community had agreed to the handing-over of two terraced streets to the Urban Splash Development for young professionals, with the proviso that other streets were improved as family homes for the existing community. We were shown round by two local residents who worked for the Development Trust and were impressed by their positive achievements, not least of all by the community friendly Gated Backlane Scheme. We were also encouraged to hear that their local MP Hazel Blears, now Minister for Communities, had been very supportive.

## Glasgow Visit

In August representatives from the communities visited the Gorbals & Govan in Glasgow. We were amazed to see the transformation of the Gorbals, but saddened to hear that very little to support community life had been included in the new development. We were told that it is a genuinely mixed community, including both social housing and quarter of a million penthouse flats. However the legendary strength of the Gorbals community which had been borne out of solidarity in the shared poor living conditions, had almost disappeared as people now looked out on lifestyles to which they could not aspire. The Gorbaltites, people who had lived all their lives in the Gorbals, told us of

how their members travel from where they have been dispersed all over Glasgow to gather every week in a poorly adapted church in the new Gorbals.



We also heard from the Church of Scotland Communities in Transformation project team about the methods they are using in 40 communities in Glasgow to help people take more control over what is happening in their areas.

Finally we travelled through the city centre riverside development to see the rundown state of Govan, a former world-leader in shipbuilding, where regeneration has not yet arrived.

We returned to Tyneside with very mixed feelings.

## The Second Joint Workshop

During this workshop, held at the beginning of October, Sue Stirling of IPPR North helped community representatives to revisit the key themes identified in the first workshop in the light of the community visits.

She helped us to identify the vital changes we were seeking in each area and led us to begin to think of a strategy to achieve them.

The immediate purpose of the day was to prepare for the national Church Action on Poverty conference to be held in November in Gateshead. This would give us a platform, to make a joint presentation on the changes we find are needed to make regeneration a genuine channel of new life for our communities.



The strategy for the day was to give each community space to tell their story, using their photographic exhibitions, then, to follow this with a joint presentation

on the five key themes (detailed above) illustrated by projected images from the five communities which highlighted the prime concerns.

A panel drawn from politicians, civil servants and church leaders would then make an initial response and engage in a question and answer session. The aim of the day would be to make the kind of impact which would open up the debate and pave the way for more targeted meetings both at regional and local authority level.

## The National Conference



Approximately 150 people attended the conference, including representatives from the communities in Manchester, and there has been a lot of positive feedback from all quarters, particularly about the vibrance of the grassroots agenda and the varied mediums: still photos, powerpoint, video, dance and spoken word, which were used to present that agenda.



This section aims to give just a flavour of the first responses from the panel of Church and Civic leaders to the community workshops and joint presentation detailed at the beginning of this report.

- John Battle M.P. was the first to note the qualitative shift from Poverty Hearings, where individuals have told the story of their experience of poverty to

*'a massively strong image of communities who are saying: "we have been locked out" and whose struggle is not about great ideas, but about people working together to change neighbourhoods*



power and their hope borne of perseverance and resilience. Value was given to the sense of solidarity and inclusiveness within and between the communities.



- Several of the panel members recognised the strong roots and sense of place in all the communities.

Tribute was paid to the communities' staying

- Professor Fred Robinson commented that he felt shocked at the sense of powerlessness that people have in the face of authorities who often think they know best.

- Panel members struggled with the tension between the role of capital in regeneration and the communities' agenda in relation to jobs, housing, shops, roads and other amenities typified by the comment:

*"No one wants to socially engineer the change of communities by yuppifying them. But you have to engineer private investment into areas"*

- Jonathan Blackie (Director of Government Office North East) highlighted relative priorities in levels of investment by saying:

*"£37million was spent over five years through the City Challenge regeneration programme in the West End of Newcastle, while £40 million was spent on the Cradlewell By-Pass."*

However, he felt that the statistics demonstrate a significant improvement in the North East in the last 10 years

- Alan Campbell M.P. was hopeful that the Local Government Act will bring democracy closer to the people
- Participatory Budgetting was named as one of the innovative ways of doing this, but
- John Shipley (leader of Newcastle City Council) admitted that:

*"this is currently being piloted at the softer end of community support rather than in the tough decisions on housing."*

- Bishop Kevin Dunn felt:

*"It is not good enough to be pulling people out of the river, we have to be asking why they are falling in."*

and commented

*"Regeneration can often be about making the river a nicer place to be."*

- On the issue of jobs and training and the transition from benefit to work, there was little in the way of specific suggestions or commitments other than the recognition from Alan Campbell M.P. of the need to invest in change by investing in the people of these communities.

To conclude the panel members were asked to commit themselves to something specific that they would do as a first response to the day and they responded as follows:



*(The words are a summary of what panel members said rather than verbatim quotations)*

#### **Alan Campbell**

The people that know best about communities are the people that live in them. I can take this message from the communities I represent to Government.

#### **Jonathan Blackie**

There is still a big job to do. There is still a real need to keep the momentum going. I share Alan's optimism. There has been a great change in NE. We need to look forward.

#### **John Shipley**

I will make sure all consultation is open and genuine.  
I will take steps to speed things up.

#### **Bishop Kevin**

I will continue to work with church leaders to make sure resources are there to support communities to improve conditions in their areas.

#### **Niall Cooper (CAP)**

We will work with colleagues in the North East in ways that demonstrate our continued faith in communities, and will support future Images for Change work with young people.

At any future event I will ensure women are represented on the platform, as well as in the communities.

#### **Follow-up meetings**

In addition, Jonathan Blackie and John Shipley committed on the day to follow-up meetings with community members and further follow-up meetings are being sought. The fruit of these will appear in a supplement to this report in April



**John Battle** concluded:

- Remember wealth and poverty are interlinked - the poor subsidise the rich.
- Find hope for the world in the possibility of women spelling out the economy of the world, based on the experience of home and neighbourhood.
- Spread the stories of this day to sow the seeds of change.

## **A Conclusion in the Making - Next Steps**

The work continues as;

- We pursue negotiations with Jonathan Blackie and Government North East after a preliminary follow-up meeting with Jonathan in December 2007
- We pursue John Shipley for a date for the follow-up meeting promised at the National Conference
- We take the Preview Exhibition (currently at Government Office North East) to the other civic centres and town halls and other appropriate venues
- We use this report to raise the profile of the key community issues with constituency MPs, One North East local authority leaders and the media
- We continue to seek the kind of changes that will genuinely bring new life to our communities.

**There will be a Supplementary Report when the main body of this proposed follow-up work is completed**

- Most importantly we move on to develop the Images for Change of the next generation working with the young people who will carry forward the life of our communities

We judge that this fulfils our prediction in our original funding bid to Millfield House Foundation, that the national event in November 2007 would give impetus to Action for Change rather than conclude the action.

## Appendix 1

*'Spreading the stories to sow the seeds of change'*

The various ways decision makers and opinion formers were contacted and involved

### Community Events

Attendance at the community events included: 1 M.P., 10 ward councillors, 28 city council officers including regeneration teams, housing, social inclusion teams, community coordinators

And one regional officer with an employment remit. In some of the communities, city council officers actually contributed time and resources to the work of the Images for Change group.

### Westminster Poverty Hearing - 10 years on

In December 06, six representatives from Images for Change took a small sample of the communities exhibitions to the National Poverty Hearing in Westminster Central Hall, an event attended by M.P.s, Church Leaders etc. including Gordon Brown

### Governments Commission on Integration and Cohesion

In June 07 the Walker group were invited to make one of the presentations at the Launch of the Final Report of the Governments Commission on Integration and Cohesion. They are applauded in the report for the creative way the Images for Change encouraged acceptance of diversity. This is followed by a strong statement encouraging support for people becoming more active and empowered in their communities.

### Preview Exhibition

Five councillors including Newcastle Lib Dem and Labour leaders also came to the Preview Exhibition Reception at Newcastle Civic Centre organised by Bradley O'Mahoney, the PR company assigned to us by Millfield House Foundation.

### Press Coverage

The PR company also generated articles in:

- The South Shields Gazette
- The North Shields Guardian
- The Newcastle Evening Chronicle
- The Newcastle Journal
- Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors (RICS) North East newsletter.

### National Conference

We were disappointed that we did not attract a cabinet minister to the National Conference. We lost Hilary Armstrong after the Cabinet reshuffle, due to the change of Prime Minister. Then, none of the new ministers would commit during the threatened General Election period, which left little time before the conference - fairly exceptional circumstances, I think we could argue.

Attendance at the National Conference on November 10th which reached 150 included: two M.P.s, eight ward councillors including the Leader and Cabinet Member for Communities from Newcastle, ten officers from the statutory and voluntary sector and one regional director.

## Acknowledgements

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Community Contributors from: Walker, Teams, Rekendyke, Meadow Well, and Benwell & Scotswood

### Key Community Support Organisations & Individuals:

Phil Kitchen      Freelance Community Education  
Sister Josefa      St Vincent's School Walker  
                         Holy Rosary Church Teams  
                         Rekendyke Partnership  
                         Cedarwood Trust, Meadow Well  
                         West End Community Development Consortium  
                         Penderow Good Neighbour Project

David Walker

### Technical Support & Photographic Resources

Side Gallery - Amber Collective

Westgate Past

West End Local History Picture Collection

Jimmy Forsyth, Steve Conlin, Meg Colpitts

Heather Johnson, Rob Moore, Phil Cullen, Garry Clennel

Bliss=ability

### Community Workshop Facilitation

Anne Stewart - Community Pride

Sue Stirling - IPPR

Kevin & Oonah Atkins - Beyond the Barricades

### Funding

Millfield House Foundation

Community Foundation

Awards for All

### Public Relations

Bradley O'Mahoney Public Relations

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<b>Meadow Well</b>	Margaret Nolan	Cedarwoodtrust@btconnect.com	0191 259 0245
<b>Benwell &amp; Scotswood</b>	Pat Devlin	patdev48@btinternet.com	0191 272 2962



Church Action on Poverty, Central Buildings, Oldham Street, Manchester  
[www.church-poverty.org.uk](http://www.church-poverty.org.uk)



# Our River

*(a poem by Anne Steele)*

*This is our river  
We happen to live here  
We treasure our view  
Don't give it away  
To someone new*

*There are so many things  
We do without  
We want all these changes  
Your talking about  
Don't keep us in so much doubt*

*Me da used to say  
Look at that sky tonight  
All those colours  
It's a wonderful sight  
Aye nobody can take that away  
But just look what's happening today*

*We want things better  
So let's all discuss  
But please be sure  
We want it for us*

