



Before

After



K. HUMPHRIES & SONS
ROOFING CONTRACTORS LTD

Building Better Spaces for Homeless Residents in Doncaster

Project overview

K Humphries demonstrated its commitment to supporting local communities by donating a significant quantity of timber materials to Ongo's Garden Wellbeing Project at the homeless support shelter in Doncaster. The donation included railway sleepers and scaffolding boards, providing the resources needed to transform an underused outdoor area into a welcoming and functional community space for residents.

The materials were used to create raised planters, a vegetable growing area, picnic benches, an archway feature and a retaining wall, helping to establish a safe and attractive outdoor environment where residents can socialise, learn new skills and improve their wellbeing.

Partnership in action

As a local contractor, K Humphries has developed a positive working relationship with Ongo through a shared commitment to supporting local communities and creating opportunities for people facing challenges in their lives.

Working alongside Ongo, residents, community partners and volunteers, K Humphries played a key role in creating an outdoor space that will provide lasting benefits for people living at the homeless support shelter.

Addressing local priorities

People experiencing homelessness often face challenges relating to mental wellbeing, social isolation and limited access to quality outdoor spaces. Creating opportunities for residents to engage in meaningful activities, develop skills and connect with others is essential in supporting their wellbeing and helping them build confidence for the future.

Prior to the project, the shelter lacked suitable communal outdoor facilities where residents could gather, participate in activities or benefit from gardening and outdoor learning opportunities. The project sought to address these challenges by creating an inclusive and accessible outdoor environment that encourages social interaction, physical activity and personal development.

The improvements also support wider priorities around environmental enhancement, community participation and improving the quality of spaces available to vulnerable residents.

Delivering social value

K Humphries delivered social value through the donation of essential construction materials that formed the foundation of the Garden Wellbeing Project.

Their contribution included:

- Donation of railway sleepers and scaffolding boards.
- Additional timber materials beyond the original project requirements.
- Materials used to construct raised planters and a vegetable growing area.
- Materials used to build several picnic benches for residents and visitors.
- Support for the creation of a decorative entrance archway.
- Provision of materials used to construct a retaining wall.

By donating these materials, K Humphries significantly reduced project costs, enabling available funding and resources to be directed towards other activities that support residents and improve outcomes.

Using the HACT Social Value Calculator, the improvements delivered through this project have generated an estimated £112,907 in social value. The value is attributed to recognised outcomes including access to high-quality green space and access to a private garden, both of which are proven to contribute positively to health, wellbeing, community connection and quality of life.

Outcomes and community impact

The timber donated by K Humphries played a vital role in transforming the outdoor space into an attractive and practical community asset.

The newly created planters and vegetable growing area provide opportunities for residents to learn gardening skills, participate in outdoor activities and experience the wellbeing benefits associated with growing their own produce. The picnic benches and communal seating areas encourage social interaction and help create a sense of community amongst residents.

The retaining wall has improved the functionality and appearance of the site, while the decorative archway has helped create a more welcoming environment. Together, these improvements have contributed to a space that residents can enjoy, take pride in and actively participate in maintaining.

Jim Hunter, Service Officer at our Homeless Service said - "The new outdoor space gives us so many more ways to support our customers. From outdoor activities that benefit mental health, to building practical skills and confidence, it's already making a difference. It's been fantastic to see customers involved in creating this space themselves and then welcoming the community in to enjoy it with us. A huge thank you to everyone who supported the event and helped make it such a success."

Sustainable Impact

The benefits of K Humphries' contribution will continue long into the future. The infrastructure created using the donated materials has established a permanent outdoor space that can be used by current and future residents of the shelter.

The vegetable growing area and planters will provide ongoing opportunities for residents to learn practical skills, engage in therapeutic outdoor activities and improve their wellbeing. The communal seating and gathering spaces will continue to encourage social interaction and help combat feelings of isolation.

By investing in a project that promotes wellbeing, learning and community connection, K Humphries has helped create a sustainable legacy that will support some of the area's most vulnerable residents for years to come.

One resident, who wishes to stay anonymous, said - "I feel like my confidence has built especially in the last few months and having the garden project has given me a focus. It's great to see how rewarding gardening can be, and I've enjoyed getting out of my usual routine. I've helped in building the shed, greenhouse and other things, and I'm looking forward to using them. Building a network here has given me an idea of how the future might look - it's been motivational for me. I'm now looking forward to taking on some training and volunteering with Ongo staff to build up some more skills."