

Revitalising derelict space: The Chocolate Garden, Weston-super-Mare (November 2011)



BEFORE: The derelict site in 2010



AFTER: The Chocolate Garden, Autumn 2011



Pergola with perspex smarties



Chocolate Garden railings and entrance gates, with steel smarties and arch



Planting in the Chocolate Garden

Postcard - Back

A chocolate themed community garden was completed and opened with a party at the end of April 2011. AFLA Ltd was originally appointed in 2008 to provide concept sketch ideas for this open space, sited on a former public convenience and parking lot. The site had been neglected for years until a group of local people came up with the idea of making a garden inspired by the name of their district 'Bournville'.

We worked very closely with the community group to develop the designs, identify funding and determine how to build the garden. Eventually enough capital was secured and construction took place earlier this year. Six months after opening, the garden is thriving and having been created by local people, there has been no vandalism. A big thumbs up for local action.

Much of the wood for the furniture was reclaimed from Weston Pier and made by Somerset Wood Recycling, a local not-for-profit social enterprise. The team added some fantastic touches such as dark wood chocolate bars with bite marks.

For further information about this project and our design service, please contact Alex Fraser (Practice Director) on:

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