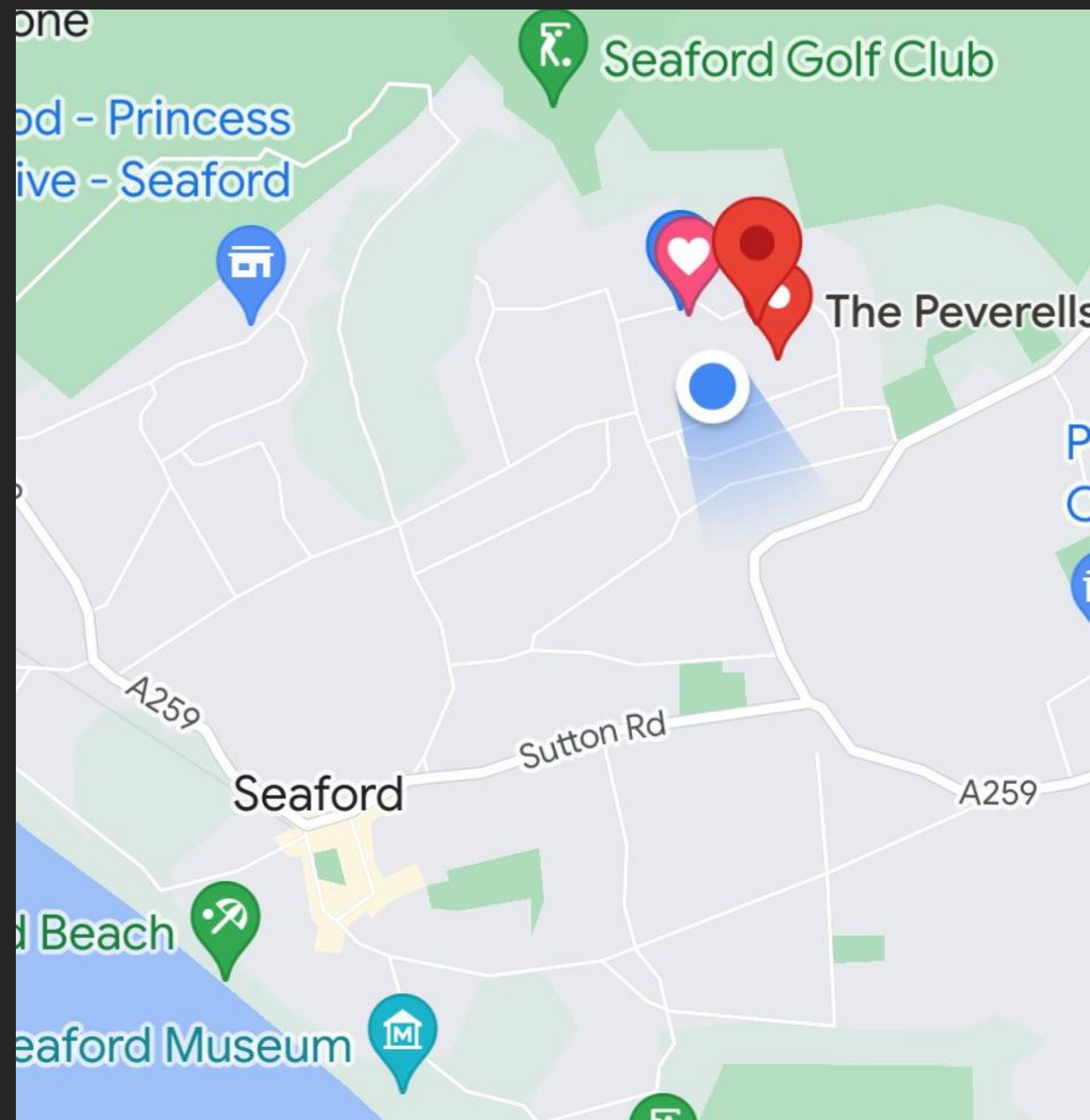
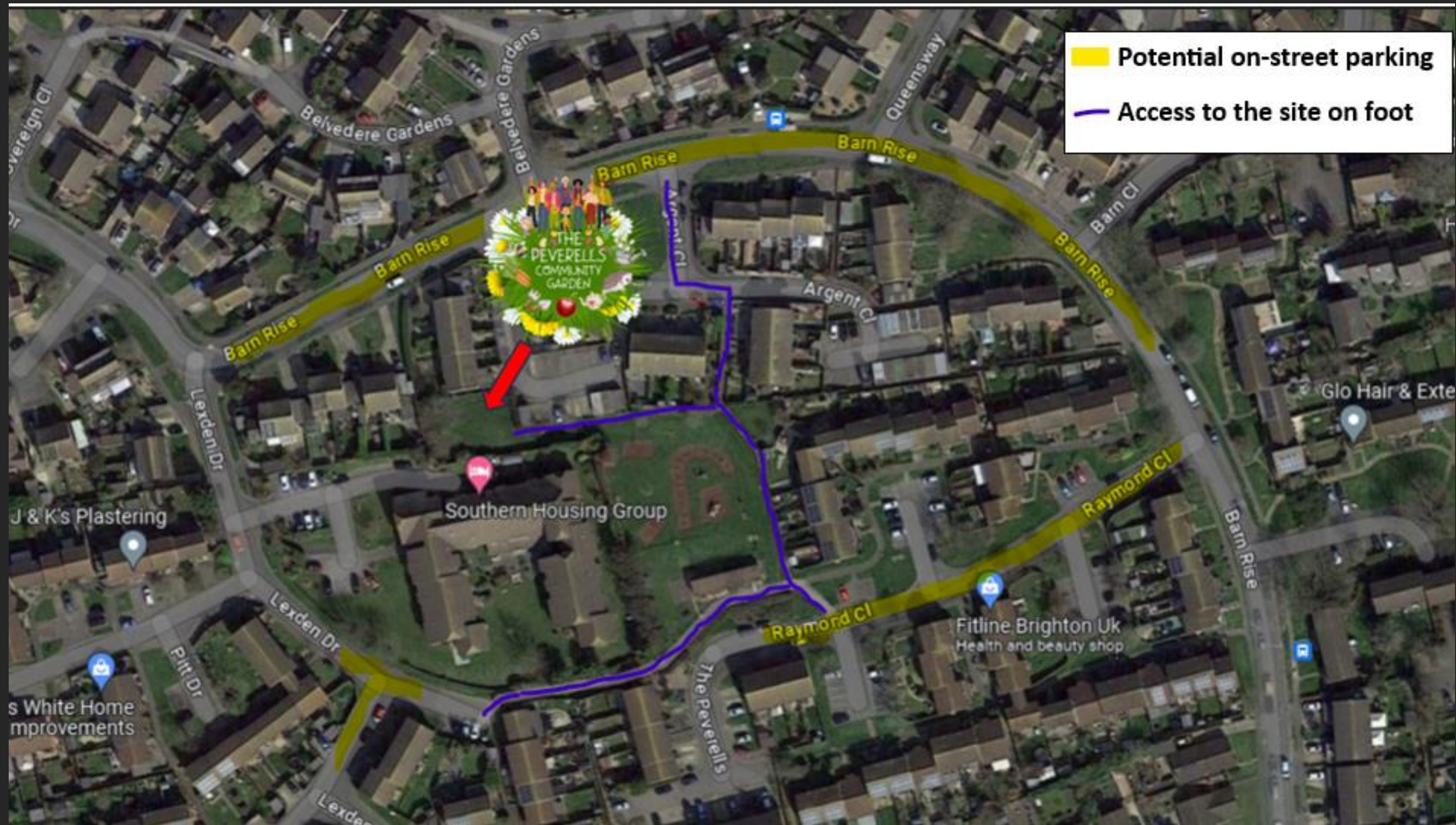


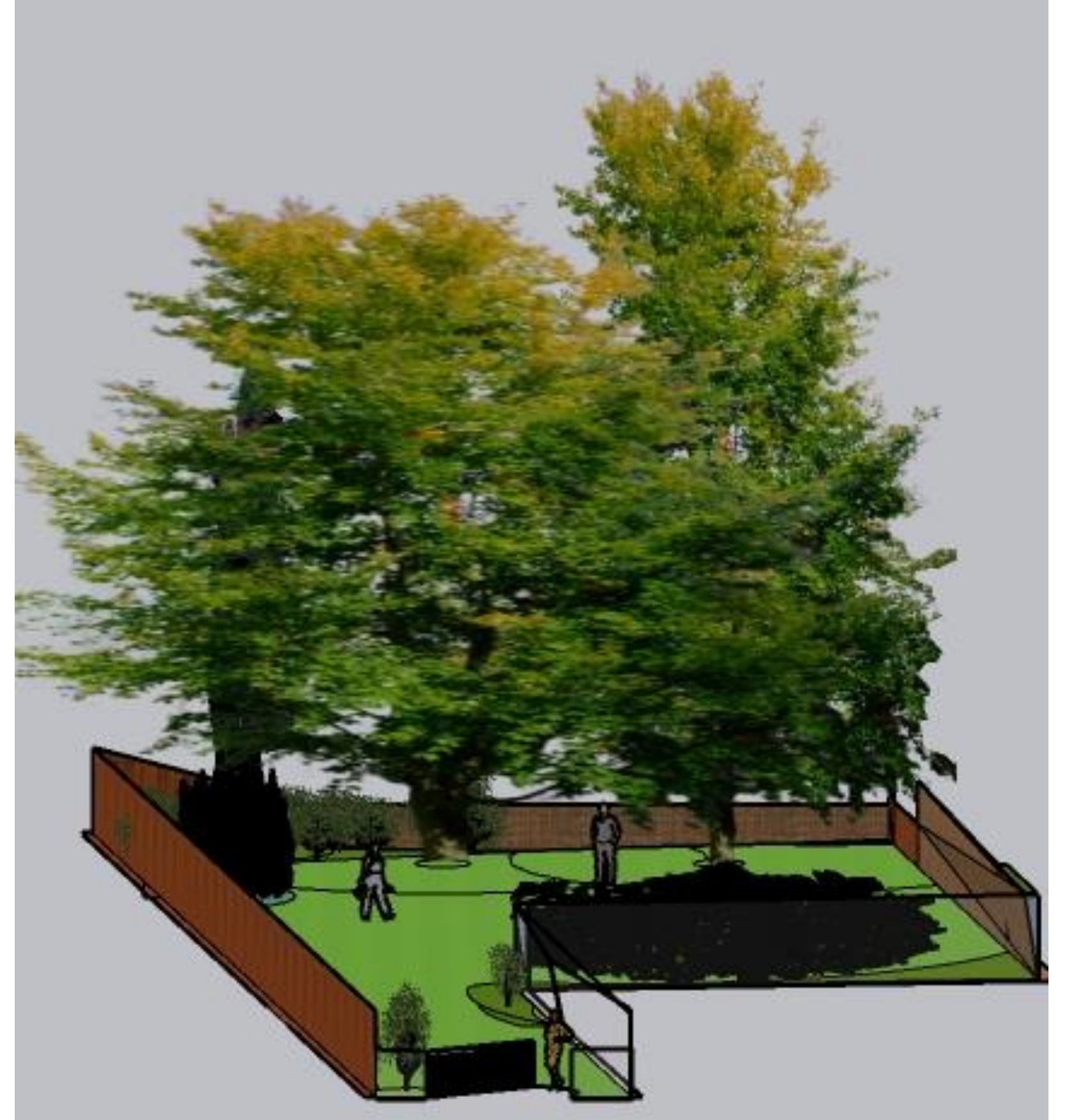
Creating a Village not just a garden! Access Matting

Presentation
by
Dan Ori
of
GIA CIC















Bronze Award Winners









Gardening with Scott Smith



A little horticultural magic

Horticultural activities help to create a sense of community, leading to increased connectivity to the larger community and thereby with wider society, says a recent study.

Students and volunteers who took part in the 2015 Hoffman & Doody community gardening and fruit tree programme gained a better understanding of the needs of their community, felt better able to help fulfil those needs and ultimately accomplished a sense of connectivity.

Today I have the pleasure of sharing some expert information from Daniel Orl, community gardening expert and all-round seasoned horticulturist.

WHAT MADE YOU START YOUR COMPANY?

Lockdown and legacy. I started what was to become GIA (Gardening In Action) in March 2020 in the first few days of the first UK lockdown.

Friends were texting or tagging me on Facebook with gardening questions, this wasn't uncommon, but the large number of questions were unusual.

We later found out that more than three million new UK gardeners were propagated during the lockdowns.

To channel the enthusiasm of new gardeners in my town, and to gain some much-needed help answering the volume of questions, I set up a Facebook group Gardening In Seaford.

In this group I found people were hungry for how-to gardening content, and so I started a YouTube channel to share videos shot in my little garden on my phone.

During the lockdowns I had health issues, and while waiting in hospital for a scan, I wondered: what if an early frost killed me off before I had time to



GETTING TOGETHER: Clockwise, from above: Dan running a community pruning workshop; a huge range of people can join in, and community gardeners in action.

bloom and make my mark on the world?

This deep emotional desire to leave a positive legacy drove me to evolve my Facebook group into an association and then a non-profit Community Interest Company (CIC).

All GIA CIC projects involve supporting gardening in the community. As well as supporting and running projects at railways, roadside verges, parks, and community gardens, we

also hold the lease for our own community garden The Peverells that we deliver with our project partner Roots Rising CIC.

WHAT DO YOU ENJOY ABOUT WHAT YOU DO?

Caring and sharing. I love working with plants and people and I have found you can cultivate positive outcomes with both.

The most rewarding part of what I do is sharing my skills and knowledge – in many of my projects I now

get to see those I have mentored pass on their knowledge and skills.

It's a very horticultural kind of magic when you sow the seeds of knowledge in a new gardener and with a little nurture and time watch them bloom.

FEEDING YOUR SOUL

Community gardening feeds your soul, your senses, social calendar and your belly while burning calories!

Done right, community

gardening can help you with issues relating to weight, stress, anxiety, depression, social isolation, and you get carrots!

ADVICE YOU'D GIVE?

Listen to those who have proven experience. Be generous with advice but open to other people's ideas.

Embrace your differences and forgive others if they let you down.

Community gardening can be like a student

house-share where two housemates have different political views to you. Another always neglects to wash up, and someone always forgets to flush the toilet after use.

However, like a student house-share, community gardening can also be fun. You will make friends with people you would never have met without it.

So be tolerant, be open to new ideas and listen to experience when they tell you things like 'don't manure your carrots unless you want them wonky'.

HOW DOES IT BENEFIT SOCIETY?

As well as creating beautiful biodiverse spaces that can positively impact people's health while helping to feed us, the reduction in antisocial behaviour and creation of community that grows beyond the garden gate is a constant in all our projects.

I have endless stories of neighbours living in a street for years but never speaking until a garden created a connection between them.

When a fridge was fly-tipped outside our Peverells Community Garden and the council would not remove it, I had seen residents act with newfound pride for the area by wrestling it into a car and taking it to be disposed of correctly.

The community that be created beyond the garden is often like a great oak tree that has grown from a humble acorn.

Ultimately, we all support any community growing project that has our help.

The health scare lockdown didn't reduce me prematurely putting up the daisies but that day does come confident GIA CIC continue to keep "the community".

■ You can reach GIA CIC via their www.gardeninginaction.co.uk



Thank You
Seaford Town
Council



www.gardeningin.org