

What a difference a day makes Young Place Shapers take action to transform part of Kingston's Queens Promenade



Volunteers for Young Place Shapers spent a sunny afternoon in late June transforming a neglected stretch of Queens Promenade to create 'a bench with a view' using their gardening, painting and creative skills.



Young Place Shapers (YPS) is a new local charity project that aims to put young people at the heart of communities. It helps young people and young adults who live, work or study in Kingston to lead and support practical action in their community that is good for people and good for the planet.

The project brings young people together to improve places and spaces, enabling them to apply knowledge and skills they are learning at college, university, work or at home, and develop new skills to support their future. It can also facilitate their engagement in local decision making and improving services.



Working in partnership with Quadron and the Environment Trust, volunteers' first activity focused on a small stretch of the Queens Promenade just south of the town centre.



"It was nice to do something that felt worthwhile and to see people's reactions."

Molly, Young Place Shaper volunteer

"So encouraging to see young people care for their community and environment."

Passerby

Previously neglected, unused and overgrown, the area now boasts two restored, custom-designed and decorated benches and fantastic views over the River Thames.

BEFORE...



...AND AFTER



Young Place Shapers is also delighted to be part of the Royal Borough of Kingston's London in Bloom entry for 2014. London in Bloom is the largest horticultural campaign in London, involving hundreds of communities each year. Participating communities create lasting improvements to their local environment for the benefit of those that live, work and visit there, today and in the future.

Young Place Shapers aims to build on this exciting start with further youth led activity working with local partners in the coming months. Everything that they do will deliver positive environmental, social and well-being outcomes for individuals and communities.

Keep up to date with plans and send any comments or suggestions to: www.youngplaceshapers.org, www.facebook.com/youngplaceshapers or on Twitter: @Place_Shapers. Or contact Rachel Monaghan on rachmon@hotmail.com or 07743 225115.

