

# CASE STUDY: WATERHOUSES COMMUNITY ORCHARD

## Background

DCA delivers a project called Growing Durham which helps groups to grow some of their own food through community growing schemes that help to improve access to fresh vegetables, herbs and fruit. Waterhouses Community Association contacted us to develop an idea to create a community orchard along the railway path that runs through the village to provide free fruit for all.



## Support from DCA

Growing Durham shared their extensive knowledge on planting and maintaining an orchard through the creation of a plan to identify the most suitable types of fruit trees for the location and the provision of useful articles and leaflets. They also signposted the group to a nursery who provided further advice and suitable trees at a reasonable cost. Growing Durham provided hands on support with planting the trees alongside volunteers. With Growing Durham's help, the association are now looking at the feasibility of soft fruit planting and there has been interest expressed in running cookery courses in the village hall. A community pantry has been set up where people can leave excess crops at the hall for others to share.

"Finding Growing Durham was the key to getting this project off the ground. Everything from what sort of things we needed to consider when picking our planting sites, right through to advising us on what varieties would do best. They even turned up during one of our planting days and helped out - thanks guys!  
Stefan Gemski, Volunteer



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