

Muck and brass

A local success story is going from strength to strength thanks to backing from Berrybridge Housing.



In the shadow of nearby tower blocks Ashfield Allotments are thriving

Only three years ago Ashfield Allotments, although loved by those involved, were struggling to attract new people. The committee members landed funding to the tune of £1,300 from Berrybridge Housing to buy a rotivator in a bid to bring the allotments back to life.

Since 2005, the allotment enthusiasts haven't looked back securing more than £22,000 in grants from a host of local organisations ensuring the regeneration of the community facility.

Frank Burke, Berrybridge Housing's Regeneration Manager, said: "We were happy to help the committee buy their first purchase – the rotivator – as we knew this would lead to old plots being brought back into use. The equipment also helps older, or less mobile people, participate in allotment life. "Last year we awarded them a second

grant to purchase a shredder to allow allotment holders to shred large cuttings, dead wood etc to be composted enabling them to keep the site free from waste that could pose a potential fire hazard and to assist in composting.

"It great to see how successful they have been with 70 plots let out and 12 people on a waiting list."

In recognition of all their hard work, Ashfield Allotments' Secretary Daniel Barrington has received an award reflecting their commitment to fundraising, site development and promotional work on the green space. And they are not stopping there. This year they plan to install a permanent toilet for disabled people and next year they have their sights on landing the green pennant award which recognises high quality green spaces.