

# **Open spaces, open minds**

**Linda Boys  
Neighbourhood Manager**

# The VAGA experience

- **Involvement**

- **Interest**

- **Possibilities**

- **Imagination**

- **Guilt!**

- **Motivation**



# Desire to make a difference

- **My city**
- **My neighbourhood**
- **My residents**
- **Our quality of life v survival**



# Ideas

- **Bentilee Valley and Neighbourhood Renewal**
- **Community growing, horse and cart, wider links.....**
  - ▶ **EPIC**
  - ▶ **Tenants**
  - ▶ **Social network and enterprise**
  - ▶ **Links to many aspects of LAA**
    - ✓ **Health and older people**
    - ✓ **Affordable food**
    - ✓ **Exercise**
    - ✓ **Jobs and training**
    - ✓ **Children & young people**
    - ✓ **Safer, Stronger, Greener**
    - ✓ **Economic development and enterprise**
    - ✓ **Community Cohesion**



# That's life!!

- **Could be so easy**
- **Is so easy**
- **Dealing with the blows**
- **Not so easy after all**
- **“It’s not how many times you get knocked down, it’s how many times you get back up again.”**



# Today and tomorrow

- **Re-visit possibilities**
- **Re-argue the points**
- **Motivate the community and partners**
- **Set goals and targets**
- **Get on with it**
- **“When someone is starving it’s great to give them a sandwich. But it’s even better to teach them to grow corn and make bread.”**

