

Welcome to Derwenthorpe

We hope you will be very happy living in your new home and our lovely environment here at Derwenthorpe. Derwenthorpe was developed by the Joseph Rowntree Housing Trust (JRHT) as a garden village for the 21st Century, in keeping with the Rowntree ethos and values.

The aim was to provide residents with an environmentally sustainable development, with energy efficient, affordable 'mixed tenure' housing, well-managed green space, and good transport links that would encourage people to reduce their car use. Crucial to this is the development of a genuine self-sustaining community.

We think we are all really lucky to live in such beautifully designed homes that have many 'green' features. Some of those features were new to many of us, so we have put together this simple and non-technical user guide to our homes.

We have based this very general guidance on our experiences and research. While many features of our homes are the same, there are also quite a lot of variations, so you may find differences in your place. However, we hope this guide gives you a good starting point. It is offered to you in the spirit of neighbourliness and community -- we obviously can't accept any liability for actions you take based on this guide!

We welcome further questions and your feedback. Please email amandampotts58@gmail.com.

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Derwenthorpe: a brief overview

Green space and transport

We have 14 acres of shared green space on Derwenthorpe - this is very unusual for new developments. As well as the open space, small gardens in each quarter known as LAPs (local areas of play) and the two play areas, we have two ponds. The ponds attract lots of wildlife and are also part of the flood defence system for both Derwenthorpe and Osbaldwick.

We welcome people from the surrounding area to enjoy our green space and the play areas. The cycle path that goes through Derwenthorpe is also well used. WE are also well served by local buses.

As you will know, it's not possible to drive through the estate which makes it a very safe place for children and all of us.

Parking is limited to one space per house This is a planning requirement to try to encourage people to reduce their car use. Please make sure you only park in your designated space and ask visitors to use the visitors' parking or park on the roadside (but not the pavements or green areas please!).

Local activities

We are developing a friendly inclusive community and would like to encourage you to get to know your neighbours and take part in any of the organised events that take your fancy.

A monthly information sheet of local events is produced and delivered to every house by residents. This is called *LotsOn in Derwenthorpe*. Some events are one-offs but others are run regularly. For example, we have a monthly coffee morning (first Sunday of the month) which is great for meeting new people, an annual 'Open Gardens' event, where you can get ideas from other residents for developing your garden, and an annual Big Picnic, with live music.

All events are resident-led and open to all. We encourage people from surrounding areas to attend as well as Derwenthorpe residents.

We are always looking for new ideas and volunteers to organise them. Contact the Community Activities Network at can@derwenthorpe.co.uk if you are interested in helping out or have a good idea for a new activity!

The more formal business of the community is led by the Derwenthorpe Residents' Association (DRA) core team. All residents are automatically members of the DRA and we elect the core team. The core team aims to provide a collective voice for all residents, taking up issues of concern and working in partnership to develop the environment and community activities. While core team meetings are open to other residents as observers, there are also regular All Residents' Meetings. These are advertised in LotsOn.

There is also a strategic group called the Derwenthorpe Governance Group (DGG) made up of equal numbers of JRHT staff and elected residents. This group considers wider strategic issues such as the use of the estate charge.

Information about the work of the DRA core team, the all residents' meetings (and much more) can be found on the DRA website: <http://www.derwenthorpe.co.uk/> (the site is undergoing a major re-design – watch out for the launch of the new site soon...)