

# WP1 Urban renaissance

## Background 1

- I'DGO 1 focused on neighbourhood rather than gardens/private outdoor space
- DoH care homes study showed importance of private outdoor space
- Sustainable communities/urban renaissance agenda requiring higher-density housing on urban land – where space at a premium, garden space likely to be lost
- Implications of urban renaissance for older people not yet investigated – claimed benefits not tested

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## Background 2

- CABE report on homebuyers preferences (2005) commented that ‘in the face of uncertain public opinion, we have to make sure we deliver on benefits of higher densities, or else we end up with the worst of both worlds’ (p.23)
- Key design issues for homebuyers are: building style, car parking and private outside space



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## Background 3

- Private outdoor space highly significant for older people – gardening activity and appreciation of nature both contribute to health and wellbeing
- Inability to cope with garden one of most commonly cited reasons for older people moving into retirement/sheltered housing
- Importance of high quality design acknowledged for achieving sustainable urban renaissance
- Guidance available but tends to contain principles and generally not evidence-based

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## Objectives

1. To determine what is lost and gained in urban renaissance developments, in terms of residential outdoor space and wellbeing/QoL of older residents
2. To determine how, and to what extent, different types of residential outdoor spaces (private gardens, shared gardens, balconies, courtyards etc.) contribute to older people's wellbeing and QoL

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## Objectives

3. To identify how best to design different types of residential outdoor spaces in urban renaissance housing to deliver maximum benefits to older people



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## Methods 1

Under review, but likely to include:

- Literature review to identify existing knowledge base on older people's wellbeing/QoL and residential outdoor space
- Review of how residential outdoor space currently being provided in urban renaissance housing developments



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## Methods 2

- Focus groups to identify how residential outdoor space likely to affect older people's wellbeing and QoL
- Surveys of older people (in wide variety of housing, from urban, high-density to rural, low-density) to investigate how their residential outdoor spaces contribute to their wellbeing and QoL





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## Methods 3

- In-depth investigations of how individual design features help or hinder older people's use/enjoyment of outdoor spaces – using diaries, observation, in-depth interviews etc.





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## Residential outdoor space

- Outdoor space attached to housing developments
- Includes: private gardens, shared gardens, balconies, terraces, courtyards, verandahs, parking areas, outdoor storage areas (for bins, gardening equipment etc.)



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## Residential outdoor space

- Features of design that might be important:
  - Type/form of landscaping
  - Proportion of area given over to different uses
  - Orientation of spaces
  - Detailed design of different spaces



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## Residential outdoor space

- Connections between indoors and outdoors
- Thresholds between public and private space
- Views of space from inside housing
- Relationship with street/neighbourhood

