

Appendix D: Citizens' Observatory report

Background

The Greengage project sets out to help public authorities shape their climate mitigation and adaptation policies by engaging with citizens to co-create green initiatives.

To achieve this, the project aims at developing Greengage Observatories focusing on mobility, air quality and healthy living for the delivery of carbon neutral neighbourhoods.

The developed Greengage Observatories are supported by bespoke digital technologies and tools that facilitate citizens' participation in observing, sensing, and monitoring their urban environments and co-developing innovative solutions to pressing environmental problems.

Bristol is one of five innovation pilots across Europe to collectively respond to the Greengage mission to define and deliver Observatories as integral components of decision-making processes that address current urban and regional planning challenges of climate mitigation and adaptation as well as healthy cities.

The Bristol pilot is linked to the development of East Bristol Liveable Neighbourhood (EBLN). The Observatory provides a means for under-represented groups to feed into the project through a process of re-engagement (supplementing the existing engagement approach). The project serves to complement the engagement programme within EBLN.

The Greengage project is a three-year-long pan-European initiative, funded under the Horizon Europe Framework Programme and co-funded by the UK government and Switzerland's State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation. This project is led by the Austrian Institute of Technology and comprises 17 research and industry partners from the EU and the UK. [Read more about the project and partners on the Greengage website.](#)

There were two iterations of the Citizens' Observatory in Bristol.

First iteration (summer 2024)

We delivered the first iteration of a Greengage Citizens' Observatory in east Bristol in the summer of 2024.

We engaged two groups of young people from Redfield Educate Together and Bristol Somali Youth Voice across a series of sessions aimed at understanding the transport challenges faced by under-represented groups, in this first iteration, young people in Bristol.

Please see an example of these sessions below:

Session 1	Brainstorming of safety concerns in the local area and completing an adapted version of the perception survey given to schoolchildren as part of the Liveable Neighbourhood engagement. Training on citizen science.
Session 2	Conversation on issues impacting feelings of safety in the local area.
Session 3	Mapping of safety concerns onto map of the local area.
Session 4	Walkabout in local area, scoring based on perception survey and Healthy Streets indicators.
Session 5	Conclusion, storytelling/data analysis and next steps.

Across a series of sessions, we explored the transport and transport-related challenges facing young people in Barton Hill and the east Bristol area.

We found that the main concerns among the young people we worked with were anti-social behaviour, public transport issues, road safety including crossings, unsafe car parking and air quality.

Generally, we found that young people from the Bristol Somali Youth Voice were more likely to rate their local area poorly than their counterparts at Redfield Educate Together.

Second iteration (autumn 2025)

We commissioned Knowle West Media Centre (KWMC) and Praxis to lead with the engagement and delivery of the second iteration of the Observatory. Along with continued input from the Greengage partners, this allowed the Observatory to reach a broader audience.

Conversation Station

The 'Conversation Station' is a mobile pop-up auditive space working as data generator for Bristol's Citizens' Observatory. It records community voices to bring them into research, campaigning and policy making. The Conversation Station was at various events in the community allowing people to talk about things that mattered to them.

Please see the table below for event details:

Date	Activity	Attendance
07/09/25	Testing Conversation Station, interviewing publics	12 adults
13/09/25	Testing Conversation Station, introducing research with Bristol Somali Youth Voice, interviewing public	4 adults, 5 young people
24/09/25	Pop up Conversation Station on Avonvale Road with members of the public and some businesses	7 adults
25/09/25	Pop up Conversation Station at Redfield Educate Together during school play street. Publics and parents from both Redfield and the Catholic school.	2 children, 7 adults
8/10/25	Conversation Station – AMBASSADOR PROGRAMME exchange to Copenhagen	3 (outside EBLN, Wider Public)
16/10/25	Launch event at Barton Hill Settlement, event and interviews with participants.	43 adults, 4 young people
24/10/25	Conversation Station with Somali and Sudanese women	7
27/10/25	Conversation Station – wider engagement with University of Bristol - Festival of Social Sciences – conceptualization of the prototype dataflow process	8 (outside of EBLN – wider public)

Upcoming events: There will be a showcase of a sound piece made up of the conversations had in a celebratory event.

To learn more about the conversation station please visit: [Conversation Station Prototype - Knowle West Media Centre](#)

Key groups involved in the second iteration of the Observatory:

- Bristol Somali Youth Voice (BSYV)

Date	Activity	Attendance
19/08/25	Meet BSYV in Urban Park session	2 staff
13/09/25	Big up Barton Hill event	3 staff
19/09/25	Planning and training sessions with founder, and lead staff	3 adults
23/09/25	Planning and missions design workshop with young people	12 young people 3 staff members
30/09/25 02/10/25	Research: interviews using Conversation Station <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Big UP Barton Hill event • Play session at Urban Park • Play session at Netham Park 	8 young ambassadors doing interviews With 8 members of the public, including peers and young people in the park
17/10/25	Presentation and Reflection session at Barton Hill Observatory Launch Event	3 young people 2 staff members
25/11/25	Sensemaking and Data Validation session	8 young people 3 staff

- Wellspring Settlement and Health Centre

Date	Activity	Attendance
22/07/25	Introducing project	1 staff
01/10/25	Conversation Station at Barton Hill Settlement	12 staff and members of the public
09/10/25	Conversation Station at Barton Hill Health Centre	8 staff and members of the public

24/10/25	Workshop Sensemaking and Validation session	2 staff, with artist, researcher 2 GREENAGE staff and 1 praxis
24/10/25	Training – storytelling / community editing workshop	1 staff with 1 artist

- Wellspring - The Swannery Youth Club

Date	Activity	Attendance
15/09/25	Workshop: 1 hour – recruitment / intro to project	2 staff, 10 young people
22/09/25	Workshop: 5 hours workshop with group	10 young people (same group as above)
29/09/25	Workshop: refine research questions and next steps	10 young people (same groups as above)

Decision made to discontinue this group due to lack of resources.

- Redfield Educate Together

Date	Activity	Attendance
18/09/25	Data collection: delivery at school and walkabout in the local area	2 x active travel officers and BCC EBLN officer With 6 groups - total approximately (50 students) and 2 teachers
25/09/25	Sensemaking: Workshop delivery at school	BCC EBLN officer With 2 classes - total approximately (50 students) and 2 teachers (same people as above.)

Two Year 5 classes (50 children approximately) at Redfield Educate Together participated in the Greengage Citizen Observatory. This included an assembly, a walkabout of the local area using the Greengage technology and two classroom sessions. This was followed by and a street party and playing out event to celebrate the pocket park outside the school.

This opportunity was also offered to Barton Hill Academy and St Partrick Catholic Primary School, with ongoing discussions taking place as to the possibility of future workshops or walkabouts.

- ACORN

Two meetings, but it was agreed ACORN would not participate.

- Lawrence Hill Neighbourhood Forum

Date	Activity	Attendance
10/09/25	Meeting present Greengage Citizens' Observatory to Lawrence Hill Neighbourhood Forum	25
19/11/25	Greengage App and Backend Training Session	3

Upcoming event: Outstanding training and onboarding session.

- Barton Hill Activity Club

Date	Activity	Attendance
19/09/25	Interview, meeting and agreement on how to work together	1
17/10/25	Group discussion workshop with Somali and Sudanese women – car drivers	26

Upcoming event: Outstanding data sensemaking and validation session.

- Bristol East Disabled Society

This group started with an interview, and then a co design session with 3 members of the group. This then led to the design of a diary as our research tool, which was

delivered to participants at their homes. Part of the brief is to collect mobility and accessibility data using the Greengage – app. There have been a few issues with the app, so this is a longer-term piece of work to support the aims of the group.

Date	Activity	Attendance
30/09/25	Co-design session, defining research questions and tools	3
4 – 13 /11/25	Diaries delivered with participants plus 1 to1 interviews	4
4/11/25	Meeting with 2 facilitators/ artists to co design workshops with group	2
13/11/25	Meeting with 1 more ambassador	1

Upcoming event: Sensemaking and storytelling workshop with group.

Datathon

This event on 16 October involved working with academics and partners in a controlled workshop to review existing data on the trial. This includes data provided by citizens through the Greengage app and data available to the public. With over 50 participants attending throughout the day, the event successfully combined technology, civic participation, and collaborative problem-solving.

The Greengage app, the conversation station and visual dashboards provided a space for capturing voices and presenting insights. AI tools for thematic and sentiment analysis introduced during the event were welcomed as a means to analyse opinions in a controlled and transparent manner.

The findings from the second iteration of the Citizens’ Observatory will be reported at a later date via the Greengage Consortium.