

The Malings is a neighbourhood of seventy-six homes located in the Ouseburn Valley in Newcastle.

Drawing inspiration from the local Tyneside Flat, in the form of stacked duplexes, the development is an exemplar in creating a sociable urban neighbourhood. The scheme's design - a series of splayed blocks, like an outstretched hand provides glimpsed views of the River Ouse from all the apartments. No two homes are identical, and every home has its own brightly coloured front door onto the street, helping to animate the streets and increase the chances for informal encounters with neighbours every time you enter or leave your home.

Communal cycle stores and recycling areas become opportunities for further informal encounters between people and promote a culture of sharing that can perhaps best be seen within the communal microallotments that sit between the housing blocks. Another successful addition to the scheme is a large feasting table where residents host events and parties.

Low walls and planters encourage conversations between neighbours, fostering a sense of community and helping to develop a pleasant neighbourhood. There are times when you want your own space as well, so each home also has its own private open space either in the form of a rear garden or a roof terrace.

The Malings has attracted a vibrant, diverse community of creative residents who readily engage in the residents' association. The development has also kickstarted the regeneration of the Ouseburn Valley; since its completion, a popular pottery/café and a microbrewery/ beer garden have opened nearby.

If somebody needs to borrow something, a quick post on the Facebook group and someone will usually come up trumps... Some have even been known to loan their house to a neighbour for a weekend when relatives come to stay.

- STUART WANNOP, RESIDENT

I love the mix of people – young and old – and the atmosphere is really inclusive

- JACKIE CHRISTER, RELATIVE OF RESIDENT



77

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NEIGHBOURLINESS



SAFETY



GREEN SPACE



DISTINCTIVENESS



HOUSING