

## **Park Hill**

*(Source: GA project Making My Place in the World)*

### **Introduction**

This was an extensive project that was put together to help students develop their vocabulary and become comfortable using similar language to that used by developers at Park Hill.

### **Background on Park Hill**

This site is relatively infamous in Sheffield, largely due to its location and physical appearance (it can be seen for many miles around and is viewed by many as an eyesore), but also due to its interesting history. Back-to-back housing clearance began in the area in the 1950s. Park Hill Flats were built as a pioneering project and were known as the 'streets in the sky'. They were designed with community in mind and were considered a great success for the city.

In the 1990s they were given Grade II listed status (the largest listed building of its kind in Europe) and as a result when the area went into decline they could not be demolished. The regeneration project was then taken on by *Urban Splash*, a development company who are currently transforming the declined buildings into luxury flats.

### **Park Hill as a geography study topic**

The iconic nature of this area has meant it has been used by local schools for a number of years as a case study for urban regeneration, rebranding and gentrification.

We hope that the online project could make it more accessible to students further afield.

- The whole project lends itself to decision making exercises about what could be done for the area, using key events as a way of engaging the students, e.g. the listed building status, those living in the back-to-back housing and their opinions, the current views on the area etc.
- The project schools gathered together pictures, podcasts (of planners and developers) and video clips that could all be used to precede a trip and aid planning and understanding prior to visiting the area.
- These could also be used as a way of refreshing the students' ideas and reviewing what they have seen on a trip when back in the classroom.
- The podcasts can be listened to by students and used as a way of developing their vocabulary to assist in their understanding of the 'planner talk'.
- The photos can be viewed and dated and used as an online scrapbook of changes in the area. They could also be used as a way of developing a timeline of the area and initiating

discussions on changing urban landscapes and the positive and negative associations of regeneration.

- The video clips/photographs could be used to introduce the topic or as an initial decision making exercise or a discussion on what they would do after the slum clearance.

### **Living together - will it work?**

When the flats have been renovated they will be occupied by a mixture of private and local authority tenants. This is another interesting topic to debate with students - do they think the combination of residents will work?

### **Example materials from the project schools**

- Aston Academy: [PowerPoint of project materials](#) and [lesson PowerPoint](#)
- Silverdale School: [Mini scheme of work](#)

### **Resources**

[BBC - In pictures: New Park Hill flats in Sheffield unveiled](#) (02.09.11)

[BBC - Park Hill in pictures: 2006-2009](#)

[BBC - Park Hill's history](#)

[Guardian - Park Hill estate, Sheffield - review](#)

[Park Hill Flats a Grand Old Lady](#) - reflections on the 'Take Now Or Stay The Same' blog.

[Urban Splash - Park Hill Flats](#)

[Yorkshire Film Archive - Park Hill Housing Project \(c.1962\)](#)

[Yorkshire Post - article and video: Inside Sheffield's 'new' Park Hill Flats](#)