

Coventry Sacred Space Initiative

- is broad based and community led
- benefits the whole of Coventry
- is multifaceted e.g. sports, health, cohesion, art, culture, economic regeneration
- complements existing regeneration plans for the City
- is supported by diverse organisations within the community, public, voluntary and business sectors



We are part of the One Coventry Partnership, a platform for people and communities from all backgrounds to come together to help make 'One Coventry' – Our Coventry.

Currently, the Initiative is being developed by a group anchored by the Together in Action Trust.



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- Or see the Together in Action website www.tiatrusted.org

Coventry Sacred Space Initiative



The Coventry Sacred Space Initiative



▲ Free of plastic, safe, vibrant with colour, sounds and nature

The Purpose

- To make Swanswell Park and Pool the new 'Central Park' of Coventry, with a range of activities for the whole family: a space that will be buzzing with music, art and wellbeing activities.
- To create and maintain a space for creativity, hope and healing, where voluntarism and innovation are incubated, cultivated and harvested for the good of all.
- To improve local living standards and the daily experience of residents. A welcoming space that attracts business, tourists, students and everyone living in Coventry.
- To help address local social problems such as drug use, litter and antisocial behaviour.

The Background

In early 2019, a group of religious leaders/activists from places of worship surrounding Swanswell Park came together to discuss local regeneration. They recalled their positive childhood memories and their personal and community journeys since the 1950s, when communities had little but still supported each other.

This was the spark that ignited the Initiative. In mid 2019, the Coventry Safety and Security Working Group, originally tasked to support the security of places of worship, was

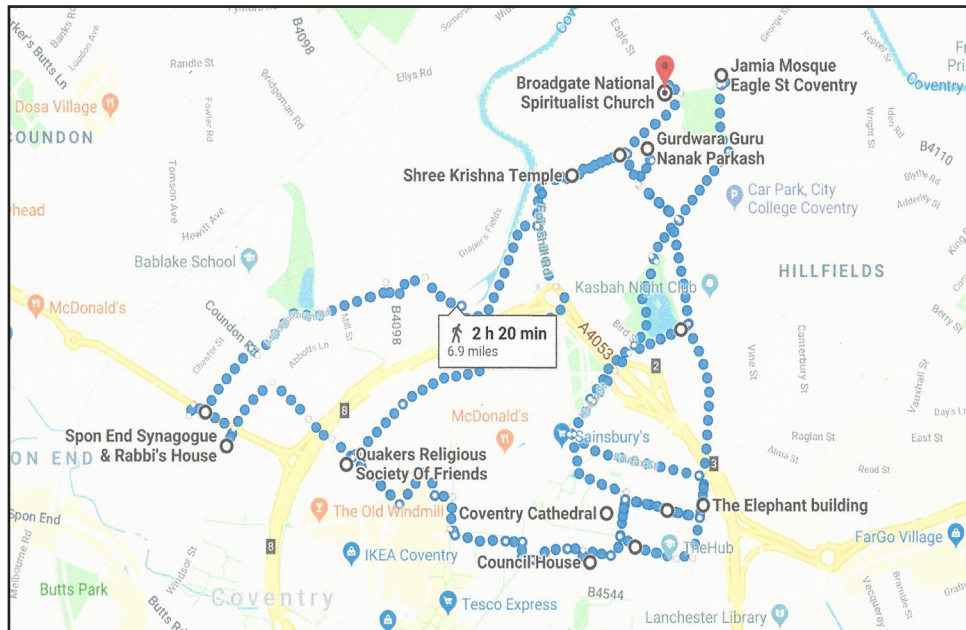
established with the support of Cllr Abdul Salam Khan, Deputy Leader of Coventry City Council. This became the coordinating Group for the Initiative.

In January 2020, a Summit with delegates from over 100 organisations formally inaugurated the Coventry Sacred Space Initiative. Unfortunately Coronavirus then suspended further work. Currently, our plan is to build the Initiative through securing human and financial resources, crafting a development plan and establishing a legal entity to drive forward the Initiative.



The Sacred Space will feature a Gateway, a Pathway of Discovery and new planting, re-invigorating individuals and leading them to physical, spiritual and mental wellbeing. (Possible designs are shown above.) Other features will include the Coventry Exchange Centre, You for Ever - Hologram Experience, the Coventry Climate Hub, Green Gym for the Body, Green Gym for the Mind, Coventry Sacred Mile, Delivering Change Together and Swanswell Family Fun.

▼ The map below shows a walking route (the Coventry Sacred Mile) between participating places of worship located around Swanswell Park.



The Sacred manifests in many different ways. Through the Coventry Sacred Space Initiative, different faith communities are jointly creating a space in the centre of our City where the sacred, spiritual, and natural can be discovered, enjoyed, and preserved.

Coventry Sacred Space Initiative

List of support organisations & bodies

- Coventry City Council
- Coventry Cathedral/Diocese
- Together in Action
- Jamia Masjid
- Shree Krishna Temple/Mandir
- Guru Nanak Parkash Gurdwara No.6
- Coventry Muslim Forum
- National Spiritualist Church
- Coventry Quakers
- Eden Girls School
- Vagdia and Holmes Architects
- Coventry Earth Spirit
- Black Environment Network
- West Midlands Polics
- United Religious Initiative (UK and Europe)
- Strengthening Faith Institutions
- Coventry Community Forum
- Coventry Multi-Faith Forum
- Voluntary Action Coventry
- Baha'i Community
- Zoroastrian Community
- University Hospitals Coventry
- Warwickshire Humanists
- Coventry Interfaith Group
- Coventry Unitarian Church

I support the Initiative because...

The Initiative will help turn "One Coventry – Our Coventry" from words to a physical reality

Sacred Space will help to bring people and communities in our City together.

Sacred Space will attract new business to the area, helping local people to find employment.

Coventry Sacred Space will give people in the area a real boost, and help with healing and wellbeing after Coronavirus.

People from all parts of Coventry will be attracted to the Swanswell Park area and this will help with regeneration.

Local children and families will have somewhere they can relax and have fun.

The sound of water and the sight of colourful plants – what could be better!

This initiative will encourage nature and wildlife to return to the City Centre.

Members of the Reference Group

Coventry Sacred Space Initiative