

Ocean Drive/ The Pantiles

A Fresh Start for a Changing Climate

by Simon Thompson, Gardens Manager, FRSA



The garden at Ocean Drive / The Pantiles has entered a significant new phase this year, following an unusually wet start that finally allowed long planned improvements to begin. The clearance carried out in March marked the first visible step toward a more resilient, contemporary landscape designed for the future.

The initial reaction to the bare site was Focal understandably mixed. A total reset can feel stark, especially in a space that many residents have known for years. As the first structural plants were positioned, the emerging framework of the new garden became clear, and feedback turned overwhelmingly positive. These early plantings form the backbone of a design intended to be open, modern, and drought tolerant, reflecting the changing climate and the need for sustainable, low maintenance planting schemes.

A key feature of the redesign is the installation of two pergolas, at each end of the main walkway. These structures are expected to be in place by the time this article is published, providing architectural interest and creating natural points. Over time, they will offer opportunities for climbing plants to soften the lines and introduce seasonal texture. With the structural elements established, the project will pause until mid-Autumn, when the perennial layer will be added. By allowing the garden to settle over winter, the team aims for a flourishing, fully established display by 2027.

This transformation represents more than a visual refresh. It is a thoughtful, forward-looking response to environmental pressures and a commitment to creating a welcoming, resilient space for residents and visitors alike.

For further information visit <http://www.frsa.uk/>

The Association is run by a volunteer committee.