



“Local people are invited to tour the cemetery on guided walks, during the summer months to keep these stories alive and foster pride in our heritage. The involvement of school groups in guided walks is key to ensuring a long-lasting legacy. If this work is to continue safe access to all areas must be a priority.”

**Dorothy Ahmed**  
FORCEM

## Friends of Redcar Cemetery

### Project:

‘Paving the Way’

### Subject:

Facilities and building improvements

### Location:

Redcar, Redcar and Cleveland

### Overview:

FORCEM is an active and thriving volunteer force, well-known in Redcar for its hard working, tenacious and proactive approach to fund raising, environmental improvement and maintenance in the cemetery.

£5,000 was awarded to the group to renew paths in the new section of the cemetery, which was opened in 1956, and is in constant use. However, successive years of cuts to local government funding have resulted in an inevitable decline, owing to a lack of money for essential maintenance. The paths became unsafe, and unfit for purpose. The bereaved, often distracted through grief, are not always as aware of their safety as they normally would be, and many of the visitors are elderly and infirm and need a stable surface to walk along or for wheelchair access, meaning that safety was high on the group’s priority list.

The ongoing care and attention, which is now evident throughout the cemetery, has led to a significant reduction in anti-social behaviour and generated a greater respect for the area as a whole. Ex-steel workers have joined the group to put their skills to use in maintaining this environment to the highest standards. The many visitors who to the cemetery and the community as a whole will, at some point, benefit from this project.

