

Hafod Extra Care
Talbot Green, Llantrisant, South Wales
 Keepmoat

BIG Challenge 2015 submission category: Community engagement

Project overview

The project itself is a £5.7 million new build project set in the suburban setting of Talbot Green, South Wales.

It is mainly subcontractor based with a core Keepmoat team consisting of a project manager, assistant project manager, site manager, a quantity surveyor and an assistant.

The new build itself is the creation of 40 retirement flats in conjunction with Hafod Housing Association.

What were the biodiversity conditions on site, prior to the enhancement?

Prior to enhancement, the site was poorly maintained with long grass.

There was nothing in the grassed area apart from a few small trees.

There were small creatures and insects in the area given the proximity to the river and leafy trees. Some damp areas with dead leaves also.

Were there any specific conditions that led to you carrying out this work?



Photo: Bug hotel with Fir Tree community

Keepmoat carried out this work in conjunction with Hafod Housing Association and the enhancement was a commitment that was promised during the bid process.

What were the biodiversity measures taken?

Keepmoat teamed up with the Fir Tree Centre during May half term, a local community centre who work in conjunction with Hafod Housing Association.

The community centre approached Keepmoat for ideas for their garden area to which we held several meetings to discuss our ideas.

During May half term we held an environmental day for the children of the local community to learn about their environment and also take part in some hands on activities.

Around 25 young people aged between 2 and 14 joined us for the activities which included a presentation on the environment, recycling and wildlife also making bird feeders from recycled materials, a local bug hunt and making a bug hotel.

The main outcomes for the day were educating the young people about the importance of the environment and how we

can make a difference both individually and as a group.

The whole day can be easily replicated as all materials were recycled and the environmental champion gave the talk on the environment.

Altogether 3 members of staff were involved in the day including the environmental champion, a customer care manager and a graduate project manager.

Additional time was used after work to source all materials used and to create the presentation. The children and community centre staff will be able to maintain, collect and investigate the bug hotel in the long term and also examine the wildlife and habitats in the area as a result of the enhancements made to the garden.

How would you best describe the project?

An enhancement.

Further information

The bug hotel was constructed by firstly adding pallets together and inserting pieces of recycled material into the gaps.

The children also used materials found within the garden area and also inserted wildlife found in near proximity of the hotel



Photo: Painting bird feeders

into the hotel for safety while construction of the hotel was in place.

The recycled bottles were collected by office staff and cutting of the bottles occurred before they were taken to the centre for safety reasons.

The long term benefits include further education for the community in terms of investigating the hotel for wildlife, to see if new habitats have established themselves in the area and also to make further additions to the garden to encourage further wildlife.

What was your personal motivation for carrying out the enhancement?

To highlight the importance of the environment, in particular reference to the construction industry.

Also how we can make a difference to the environment both individually and by working together with local communities.