

Seabrooke Rise

Grays, Essex

Willmott Dixon

BIG Challenge 2015 submission category: Community engagement

Project overview

Seabrooke Rise is a development of 53 apartments on the Seabrooke Housing estate.

There is piece of land that is within the development that has been named The 'Green Triangle'.

The team didn't incorporate it into the project layout as it could have been used as vital storage areas, as it was very 'green and biodiverse area.

It was decided to be used as part of engagement with the local children and develop area through the project build programme to than hand it over to the community at the end of build, also allowing the site workforce to enjoy the area as well.

The site team and the supply chain assisted tidying the area and cutting back the brushes, cutting the glass and maintaining the area and providing the materials for the planting area, building Bug Hotels and BBQ area. Approx. cost was £400 for materials.



Photo: WD Community Manager; Celia Thompson planting with local child from the Seabrooke Rise Estate

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

The area has been un-kept for a long time, either before project commenced, with overgrown grass and hedgerows with mature trees and wild plants growing.

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

Being a responsible contractor was the most important thing and not taking land for personal use and keeping it in its most natural and original environment.

It initially was derelict piece of ground next to garages that were demolished.

The site team thought it would be good to enhance the area, and add commitment to building valuable relationships with the community and creating an environmental legacy throughout the build project and beyond.

As some residents on the estate do not have access to gardens and the ambition was for them to be able to use it and benefit from the area.

What were the biodiversity measures taken?

A community day to formally open the Green Triangle to the residents and all of the activities were centred on increasing the biodiversity of the area and bringing

new creature and habitats to the site, including making bird feeders, painting bird boxes and explained to the children their use, painting large pebbles that could be placed around the triangle.

Bird and bug posters were laminated and installed on to trees, so the children could spot what birds or bugs have found a home in the Green Triangle.

Planters for the mini allotment were built and planted with edible plants including basil, rosemary, chives, thyme and potatoes. This showed the local children what food you can grow and take home to eat with their families.

A BBQ was also built on the day which is hoped will be used by the community at the end of the project.

The site team have maintained the area through the build programme and by the end of the project and mini allotment should be established allow the residents to continue to grow their own food.

As part of the community day a number of offices based staff with the site team and supply chain gave a day up to volunteer their time to prep and assist with green triangle community day.



Photo: WD Community Manager; Celia Thompson planting with local child from the Seabrooke Rise Estate



Photo: WD Staff making bird feeders with local children from Seabrooke Rise Estate

How would you best describe the project?

An enhancement.

Further information

Prior community event a few bug hotels into the area were built from materials left over from site including pallets, clay pipes and bricks.

The site team collected plastic Milk bottles for the

bird feeders a few weeks before the community event and we brought bird food from the local market.

A local garden centre was asked to donate plants and herbs to grow in garden and the local building merchants supplied planters and top soil. The left over bricks from site were used to build the BBQ

What was your personal motivation for carrying out the enhancement?

To carry out enhancements for number of reasons: allow the workforce to have somewhere green to eat and enjoy their breaks.

To ensure Seabrooke Community at the end of the project can enjoy the green space with the bug hotels, bird feeders and boxes And Use the BBQ and picnic area.



Photo: Mini Allotment all completed after the Community day