

Redrow helps children sow the seeds for learning about nature Heswall Primary School

Redrow

BIG Challenge 2015 submission category: Community engagement

Project overview

Schoolchildren from the Wirral are buzzing with excitement after receiving 500 packs of wildflower seeds from housebuilder Redrow.

Student teacher Sian McHugh at Heswall Primary School approached Redrow after finding out about its partnership with the Bumblebee Conservation Trust (BBCT).

She thought the seeds would be the perfect way of attracting more wildlife to the school's eco garden and helping the 60 year one and two pupils, aged between five and seven, learn about nature and science in the process.

The school has always been keen to nurture the biodiversity of the school grounds and the keen wildlife interest the children show; however, the need for pollinator friendly plants is paramount in our local communities.

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



Photo: Heswall Primary School's Wildflowers

The biodiversity of the school as well as the homes and gardens of the pupils will receive a net biodiversity gain from an increase in pollinator friendly plants. This will encourage more bees and butterflies to the area.

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

Redrow Homes became the first developer to partner with the BBCT last year and has since undertaken a number of initiatives to create pollinator friendly habitats at its offices and developments around the UK.

We were thrilled when Heswall Primary School approached us about helping with the school's eco garden and were more than happy to donate the packs of seeds.

What were the biodiversity measures taken?

Heswall Primary is one of a small selection of schools nationwide that have been deemed an 'eco ambassador' school and, as part of the curriculum, the key stage one pupils study food and farming.

Getting them involved in planting seeds, learning about root structures, wildlife and biodiversity, was a perfect way of triggering

excitement about their outdoor learning. In preparation for wildflower seed planting the children have been bringing plants into school and they were all keen to take a packet of the seeds home to help attract bees to create a little bee sanctuary in their own gardens.

How would you best describe the project?

An enhancement.

Further information

As well as creating new habitats and undertaking wildflower planting at various locations around the country, Redrow has also created welcome cards for all of its customers embedded with wildflower seeds so, when soaked in water and planted in the garden, they will eventually bloom, creating colour outside and helping to boost the population of pollinating insects.

What was your personal motivation for carrying out the enhancement?

The sustainability of wildlife is very important, as is teaching the younger generation about our need to protect and enhance it where possible.



Photo: Members of the schools eco club