

## KeepNesting

### London and South East region

Keepmoat

*BIG Challenge 2015 submission category: Community engagement*

#### Project overview

Keepmoat pledged to create 1,200 bird boxes to be put up on our sites throughout London and South East.

The team created the name and logo for KeepNesting and produced a 'How to build a bird box' guide with over 10,000 copies being distributed to pupils throughout the community.

Our waste management company MSK supplied re-used wood that had been collected through the waste management process and our stationary suppliers Commercial donated all the recycled paper needed to print the guides.

Keepmoat carried out bird box making workshops throughout London and the South East. This involved young children from local schools taking part in constructing the bird boxes themselves with the help of staff from the Keepmoat team.

We supplied all the materials and needed including the flat pack bird boxes which were constructed by a social



*Photo: Students at Pinkwell Primary School making up the bird boxes*

enterprise 'edible Avondale', a community group supporting opportunities for local people. (cost approximately £5000)

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

Biodiversity conditions on the sites used within this project would be considered poor. Typically the sites are very busy construction compounds with little or no habitat for wildlife.

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

Our initiative was delivered as part of a company wide Environment month which

had a particular focus on introducing biodiversity initiatives on our sites. We are also monitored through our registration within the Considerate Constructors Scheme (CCS).

The CCS scheme scores our approach to not only how we protect the existing ecology and landscape but also what positive contributions we are making to the natural environment.

As part of our internal environmental performance checks we also carry out regular site inspections which incentivises the introduction of new initiatives.

### What were the biodiversity measures taken?

We have posted instructions for our staff to download on our intranet which details how to carry out a bird box making event with children. We have also made the 'how to build a bird box guide' available.

Our I.T. department are working to put this guide on our main internet page. We are happy to share our knowledge with other organisations interested in running the same event.

The top part of the bird box is accessible so the boxes can be cleaned out after each use to encourage more birds to nest in the next season. This process has been included in the how to guide.

We have created 1200 new nesting boxes for birds of various sizes and promoted others to build more boxes at home.

Our publications team created the name and logo for KeepNesting and produced a 'How to build a bird box' guide with over 10,000 copies being distributed to pupils and residents throughout the community.

Our waste management company MSK supplied re-used wood that had been



*Photo: Mapledown School showing the bird boxes they made*

collected through the waste management process. Our stationary suppliers Commercial donated all the recycled paper needed to print the guides.

Carried out bird box making workshops throughout London and the South East. This involved young children from local schools and residents taking part in constructing the bird boxes themselves with the help of staff from the Keepmoat team.

We supplied all the materials and needed including the flat pack bird boxes which were constructed by a social enterprise 'edible Avondale'. We promoted the initiative internally by featuring KeepNesting on our intranet

page and sent out an email to all staff offering a free bird box for their garden. Keepmoat allowed any staff 1 day off to help out with the bird box making workshops if they wanted to help.

### How would you best describe the project?

An enhancement.

### Further information

Overview:

- Create 1200 bird boxes for sites
- Create the name
- Publications team to create logo and 'How to build a bird box' guide
- Approach supply chain to donate repurposed / recycled materials
- Employ social enterprise to create flat pack bird boxes
- Engage local community to help build bird boxes

- supported by internal staff
- Donate bird boxes to staff and supply chain
- Distribute 'how to guides' to schools and residents
- Erect bird boxes throughout sites in London & South East

Long term benefits  
Created long term homes for birds in inner city areas and raising awareness with local community about the effects of building on green space and wildlife displacement.

Objectives met:  
1200 new bird boxes created from waste materials donated by supply chain  
Engaged 20 schools distributed 10,000 how to build a bird box guides  
Supported local social enterprise 'Edible Avondale'  
Internal staff engaged with local community.

Lessons learnt:  
When working with schools ensure you plan things early enough that they can fit you into their curriculum. Do not underestimate how popular the take up can be on offering free bird boxes. We had a great uptake for these and parents love construction the boxes with their own children. We struggled to keep up with the demand which is only a good thing. The supply chains are very keen to help.

### What was your personal motivation for carrying out the enhancement?

The birds singing on a summer's day are one of nature's delights. Over the years we have all noticed a decline in bird numbers in the inner city areas.

We have the resources to make an impact in this regard and the keepNesting initiative was the perfect way to do it.