

# People's Postcode Lottery – Postcode Local Trust

## Improving Hyndburn's Wildlife



### FINAL REPORT

#### 1. How the Award has been Spent - Significant changes above £500

The grant has been spent as outlined in the application. There were no significant changes to the project expenditure above £500.

#### 2. Achievements –

- Three key achievements

**Inspiring people to develop and improve their own spaces to create habitats for wildlife, engaging with people to provide food for wildlife and informing the wider general public about the decline in wildlife and how they can help to improve Hyndburn's Wildlife. Creating beds of cottage plants in a community garden. Installing raised beds of pollinator plants at a railway station. Inspiring people to attend activities so they can make improvements for the wildlife of Hyndburn.**

There was an increase in knowledge about wildlife decline, how to help species survive and a take-up in activities to help contribute to improving the availability of habitats and food in their own gardens, backyards and outdoor spaces. We concentrated on habitats and food such as wildflower seeds, nectar producing plants for pollinators and how to feed birds and mammals correctly so that the project is extended into winter 2018 and spring, summer and autumn 2019. The wooden habitats will continue to provide places for wildlife to flourish and provide longer-term benefits and wildlife will now be provided with the correct food to help them flourish.

From the initial survey it was evident that people wanted to be able to provide habitats for hedgehogs, bats, butterflies, birds, amphibians and mini beasts (bugs and insects) so we offered woodwork workshops to give people the skills to build habitats. 80% of respondents said that 82% of the wildlife they fed were new visitors to their gardens.

We ran five AQA courses and 28 people achieved a certificate and ten of these achieved two or three certificates. This has given people the knowledge and skills that they can share with others and the confidence to make changes in the way they garden or manage habitats to attract more wildlife.

- Made a difference – to the community

**We have been able to make a difference by engaging with the community and providing them with knowledge, skills and opportunities to help improve Hyndburn's Wildlife by taking simple measures and doing things in their own gardens, backyards, allotments, at community venue outdoor spaces and school grounds.**

We engaged with 230 people. More than 50% signed up to receive information via email, others through social media, monthly newsletter and the website. 36% wanted to take part in the project and 61% requested more information. 66% wanted to be kept informed of training courses, events and competitions and 65% were willing to take part in the end of project survey.

The end of project survey shows that 95% of respondents provided a habitat for wildlife. This was a 12.5% increase from the start of the project. The variety of habitats has increased. The main habitat increases are birds, bugs, compost heaps, flowerpots and borders and significant increases for hedgerows, hedgehog homes, log piles and natural/wild areas such as bramble patch, nettles or comfrey. PROSPECTS facilitated 22 topic related activities, delivering 31 individual sessions. We put on 18 woodwork sessions to make garden planters, a bug house, butterfly biome, bee B&B, bird table, bat box, hedgehog house, a toad abode and a ladybird home. These have been installed in local gardens. Courses ran in herbs for crawling insects, plants for bees, butterflies and flying insects. Five raised beds of border plants and bulbs for pollinators

were created and we installed bird/bat boxes and a hedgehog house. We hosted five practical events and gave talks to local community organisations. Residents took part in several national surveys.

A Girls Brigade group planted 125 bulbs to create a wildlife corridor near to the church where they meet. This was part of their 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary challenge events. We delivered sessions to an Asian ladies group and church groups.

We ran sessions at schools linked to the Science Curriculum and also worked with Year 5 RotaKids. We took the project to four annual events including activities for children and advice and information to adults.

There were five family events where we covered habitat exploration, mini beast hunts, food for birds and mini beasts, evolution and how wildlife adapt to their habitat and available food and hibernation. Attendees made hedgehog homes, bug hotels, and bird food. Families were given take home bags of wildflower seeds, plants for insects and pollinators, information on places to visit in Hyndburn to see wildlife, activities to do at home, bird food and spring/autumn bulbs for pollinators. We also hosted a Butterfly Count walk, two indoor events to educate families about mini beasts and we helped them create explorer journals to record their wildlife activities. A children's competition was held during the summer holidays.

- **Key changes and challenges that were experienced during the project**

**The key changes were the increase in local knowledge about wildlife decline, how to help species survive and a take-up in activities and events to help contribute to improving the availability of habitats and food in their own gardens, backyards and outdoor spaces. We concentrated on habitats and food such as wildflower seeds, nectar producing plants and pollinators and how to feed birds and mammals correctly so that the project is extended into winter 2018 and spring, summer and autumn 2019. The wooden habitats will continue to provide places for wildlife to flourish and provide longer-term benefits for years to come and wildlife will now be provided with the correct food to help them thrive.**

From the initial survey it was evident that people wanted to be able to provide habitats for hedgehogs, bats, butterflies, birds, amphibians and minibeasts (bugs and insects) so we offered woodwork workshops to give people the skills to build habitats.

We ran five AQA courses and 28 people achieved a certificate and ten of these achieved two or three certificates. This has given people the knowledge and skills that they can share with others and the confidence to make changes in the way they garden or manage habitats to attract more wildlife

We went out to four local community events and took the project into the community. We attended Great Harwood Agricultural Show, Oswaldtwistle Carnival, Great Harwood Charter Fair and Baxenden Allotment and Horticultural Show where we put on demonstrations and activities for children and gave helpful advice and information to adults.

There were five family events held – one event was held in the early spring, three family events during the school summer holidays and one during autumn half term. At these five events we covered habitat exploration, mini beast hunts, food for birds and mini beasts, evolution and how wildlife adapt to their habitat and available food and hibernation. Attendees make hedgehog homes, bug hotels, and bird food. The families were given take home bags of wildflower seeds, plants for insects and pollinators, information on places to visit in Hyndburn to see wildlife, activities to do at home, bird food and spring/autumn bulbs for pollinators which will appear in 2019. We also hosted a Butterfly Count event and two indoor events to educate families about mini beasts and we helped them to create explorer journals where they could record their wildlife activities.

A children's competition was held during the summer holidays.

PROSPECTS facilitated 22 topic related activities which involved us delivering 31 individual sessions. We put on nine woodwork workshops (it required two sessions to build and decorate each habitat) where people made garden planters, a lowering bug house, butterfly biomes, a bee B&B, bird tables, bat boxes, hedgehog houses, a toad abode and a ladybird home. These have been installed in local private gardens. In addition to these we also ran training courses in herbs for bees and crawling insects, plants for bees and butterflies and other flying insects and we created five raised

beds if traditional cottage border plants and/or bulbs for pollinators in outdoor spaces such as schools, parks and a railway station where we also installed bird and bat boxes and a hedgehog house.

In addition to the woodwork workshops we hosted five other practical events and also went out to give talks to local community groups and organisations. We encouraged residents to take part in several national surveys.

A local Girls Brigade group planted 125 bulbs in small pots to take home to create a wildlife corridor as they all live near to the local church where they meet. This was part of their 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary challenge events. We delivered several sessions to the general public, an Asians ladies group and church groups where bird food was made and placed in recycled containers.

We ran sessions at three schools in the spring and summer term and five schools in the autumn term. These were linked to the KS1 and KS2 Science Curriculum. We worked with a local Rotary Club and their Year 5 RotaKid classes. The students were given information to take home to their parents.

The wet start to the year and the very hot summer were a challenge as people started gardening later in the year and it was a difficult time for all wildlife. However, 80% of respondents to the end of project survey said that the wet winter and hot summer had actually encouraged them to do more for wildlife. It was essential to attend the large public events as these helped us to engage with large numbers of people on one day and the events produced a lot of completed surveys during the project which helped to inform the activities we provided. Most of the people we engaged with had heard of the Postcode Lottery and this made it easier for us to grab their attention as they knew we were a funded organisation from a national funder.

## Communication

The Postcode Lottery logo was used on all our press releases, posters and we mentioned the funding in all publicity such as radio interviews. The plaque has featured in our shop window displays all year. We presented all schools and community groups with a certificate for taking part in the project and the certificates included the Postcode Local Trust logo. During the introductory talk at workshops we mentioned Postcode Lottery/ Postcode Local Trust and the logo featured on all display boards or gazebos taken to events.

Press releases were issued to the media. The project was featured in our monthly Newsletter and all the workshops/activities and events were listed in the What's On section from January to December issues with the logo appearing in the newsletter. In the newsletter we also covered special topics such as the RSPB Big Garden Bird Watch, Big Butterfly Count, National Tree Week, Toads and Frogs – How to help them in Winter, Bulbs for Pollinator and other wildlife topics. This provided helpful information to our readership of 250+ people on the PROSPECTS mailing list and the 101 people on the Improving Hyndburn's Wildlife mailing list. Photographs from events and workshops were used in the monthly newsletter as post event publicity.

We used social media to promote all the events and workshops and created post event albums of photographs. A special web page was set up for the project on The PROSPECTS Foundation website at the beginning of the project and all activities and workshops have been promoted on the webpages.

During 2018 the window displays featured Improving Hyndburn's Wildlife and species topics such as bugs and insects, butterflies, birds, nest boxes, badgers, hedgehogs, wildlife gardening and butterflies etc... These have been linked to national days or weeks and the big issues that have featured in the press and on TV such as the decline in bees, hedgehog numbers, the effect of wet winters and hot summers on wildlife and key TV programmes such as BBC WinterWatch, SpringWatch and Autumn Watch.

All participants that engaged with the project completed an Evaluation Form at the end of each event. The comments have been collated during the year and along with the End of Project Survey will enable us to plan for future projects at PROSPECTS. We have taken photographs at all our events.

## Case Study

We have included more than one case study as there are three people that have benefitted greatly and contributed to the project. All participants that engaged with the project completed an evaluation form at the end of each event. The

comments have been collated during the year and along with the End of Project Survey will enable us to plan for future projects at PROSPECTS. We have taken photographs at all our events.

**Person A** attend sessions and learnt new woodwork skills. In addition to making the habitats and feeders on the project she went on to make many more in the same or different designs in her own time at home. These have been donated to an armed forces veterans in the community group. They have been sold at fundraising events so the veterans' community group/charity has also benefitted from this project. The habitats and feeders have been purchased by the general public so more habitats have been introduced to local gardens and backyards. QUOTE *"The best bit of these activities has been learning new skills. I have been able to use the new skills with another organisation where I volunteer. I heard about the project and funding through the PROSPECTS newsletter."*

**Person B** attended 26 of the activity sessions and increased her knowledge of wildlife. Person B became a regular PROSPECTS volunteer and attended the large public events engaging with children and families to inform them about the importance of looking after wildlife in our gardens and back yards. Person B provided interesting and informative practical activities so the children could take home bug hotels etc. Alongside the member of PROSPECTS staff Person B help to raise awareness about our work and the importance of the funding. QUOTE *"I have become more confident, I now feel I 'can' rather than needing 'help'. I have found more wildlife in my garden encouraged by all the environments I have offered through this project. I would like to take part in more activities with PROSPECTS including helping on the PROSPECTS stall at events during the summer. I heard about the project at the PROSPECTS Environment Centre and through the PROSPECTS website'.*

**Person C** is an older resident with some health issues including mobility and sight problems. Person C attended woodwork and gardening workshops and attained three AQA Achievement Award Certificates. This has improved her knowledge and skills and given her the confidence to go on to additional courses outside of the projects and to engage with other people about wildlife. She is now making her own habitats and feeders and adapting her garden to be more wildlife friendly. Quote *"I have enjoyed all of these BRILL courses. I have noticed more wildlife in my garden and I am enjoying going out and exploring wildlife. I heard about the project on the local radio."*

### Message to Motivate Players

Funding a local charity such as PROSPECTS enables players of the Postcode Lottery to put something back into the local community and means even more local people can benefit from activities and get involved in their local community.

ENDS