

Welsh Government - Llywodraeth Cymru
Aberystwyth , Ceredigion
Vinci Facilities

BIG Biodiversity Challenge Award category: Pollinator Award

Project overview

We work very closely with the Welsh Government in Aberystwyth on a range of small Biodiversity projects. This includes bee bumble dens , bat boxes , ladybird dens, sparrow terraces, beehives, planting and Insect Mansions. The cost has been very minimal as most of the materials used have been recycled or donated .A number of persons have been involved from Vinci facilities to Welsh Government. The various projects are being made more visible in the car park and for persons passing the building.

Llywodraeth Cymru

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

The biodiversity conditions was basic with poor soil conditions for planting. However we did have beehives on site in the apiary .

Were there any specific reasons that led to this project?

With the beehives already in place and as a project we wanted to assist the bees as well as raise awareness of what can be done on very limited ground space.



*Insect Mansion as can bee seen by passers by .
Hotel , car park, pub and restaurant next door.*

What were the biodiversity measures taken?

The measures taken were various from using Bee friendly weed killer to getting the soil tested so we knew what plants could go where. We used coffee grain mulch (from the Restaurant) mixed into the soil as well as donkey dung. We will be moving forward making the general public aware of what we are trying to achieve . Welsh Government staff and Natural Resources Wales staff who share the building have brought in plants and in some cases given expert advice in beekeeping (we sell the Honey we harvest for charity and so far raised nearly £800).

Recently in Biodiversity week Vinci staff took Welsh Government staff on small tours of the grounds and also visiting the bees and interacting with them in apiary. Hopefully this type of engagement will grow. Our own contribution falls in line with the Welsh Governments biodiversity Action Plan. A web page on the Welsh Government Aberystwyth website highlights all the small projects we have undertaken. Ultimately its about the bees and what they contribute, and if we can assist by making ladybird dens and Insect mansions that encourage ladybirds to lacewings to thrive whom then in turn prey on greenfly and keep their numbers down so that the bees have more flowers then we will have succeeded in our task.



Insect Mansion (Plasty Pryfed) bilingual sign ,designed so that passers by may have fun looking at it.

How would you best describe the project?

Please state: Enhancement

Further information

In line with the Welsh Government Action plan meetings were held and things like Beehives and the apiary was put in place. These decisions were made at 'high level'. Since then in Aberystwyth we have embraced biodiversity from animals (hedgehog dens, bat dens, bird houses and baths), Insects (solitary bee dens, insect hotels, drinking water for the bees , wild area for the bees) , recycled (wood, coffee mulch, plastics, crockery) materials which also saved costs of waste transfer. Our long term aim is to keep on going , considering our grounds are very limited we have further ideas and everybody is buying into it.

What was your personal motivation for carrying out the enhancement?

Its just the right thing to do.



An example of the one of the bumble bee dens – Bertie Bassett.