

**CITY OF GLASGOW COLLEGE
GLASGOW, SCOTLAND
Sir Robert McAlpine Ltd**

BIG Biodiversity Challenge Award category: Community Engagement

Project overview

As part of Sir Robert McAlpine's City of Glasgow College project, Townhead Village Hall received £5,000 to develop their community garden. Students from the college carried out the work for the 6-week project, delivering a valuable resource for local people.

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

Prior to the work taking place, there was limited biodiversity on the site.

Were there any specific reasons that led to this project?

As part of our tender commitments for the City of Glasgow College project a Supported Futures Trust Fund of £60,000 was made available for the betterment of both student life and educational experience, together with community engagement or enhancement. Funding applications were submitted to the Community Benefit Working Group which is made up of Sir Robert McAlpine and college staff who met monthly, to determine which applications would be accepted.



Photo Description: The team involved in the development of the Townhead Community Garden

What were the biodiversity measures taken?

The Supportive Futures Trust Fund approved £5,000 to purchase all of the required materials for the project. College students from various construction-related courses carried out the work as part of their coursework. Construction began in mid-February and was completed by the end of March.

The students from construction and joinery courses constructed six raised timber beds. Two brick raised beds were built by National Progression Aware (NPA) Bricklaying students. Other students also helped by emptying wheelbarrows and digging an extensive draining ditch.

Once the raised beds had been constructed, 30 tonnes of soil was delivered. All of the soil was moved by students and community volunteers using wheelbarrows. All of the raised beds were filled with quality topsoil in readiness for planting.

How would you best describe the project?

Enhancement

Further information

The project gave an opportunity for students to produce a resource that will be highly valued by the local community. The students that carried out the work valued the practical experience, gaining confidence that will be valuable in their college work going forwards. All of the students involved were presented with a certificate of thanks from the local community.

The garden is now being used as an outdoor learning space for college students with learning disabilities, particularly to assist with group-working skills.

What was your personal motivation for carrying out the enhancement?

The Supported Futures Trust Fund was established to support activities that enhanced student life and educational experience, together with community engagement or enhancement.



Photo Description: Students from the College working hard to redevelop the community garden



Photo Description: The community garden nearing completion