

The New Viewforth High School Kirkcaldy Kirkcaldy, Fife, Scotland

BAM Construct UK

BIG Challenge 2015 submission category: Temporary

Project overview

The aim of the project was to create a biodiverse reusable garden area within a new high school construction project which could be utilised as a break out space and communal area for site operatives.

The area will be made available for the site staff to take their breaks, have their lunch and make use of the outdoors.

Within the garden, planted lavender will attract many pollen collecting insects—mainly bees and created an insect hotel.

A pre-existing shed has also been made into an 'Eco Shed' and provides an area to showcase useful information on biodiversity and onsite recycling.

Materials have been reused including cable drums to make tables, trees that were felled to make chairs, re used tyres as plant beds and transformed the site notice board with planting and flowers.

This project has taken place within a building project which is located in a



Photo: Eco Hotel

suburban setting adjacent to a main road, two members of staff were involved in the creation of the project and there were no costs involved as all items were reused and the plants were donated.

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

There was existing playing fields; these were removed to allow construction to begin on site.

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

There are no specific conditions that led to this work being carried out.

The project does not have any BREEAM requirements but is working to the requirements of the clients Sustainability Matrix and project Ecology Report.

Trees are identified as requiring protection throughout the construction works and fencing has been established and is regularly checked and maintained.

The site team took the initiative to create this project and drove it from an initial idea to completion. It is now being utilised on site.

How would you best describe the project?

An enhancement.

Further information

As the chosen location for the garden area was at the main entrance to the site it was important to create a professional appearance but also a useable space for operatives and any wildlife that choose to take up home there. The installation process involved:

- Re-using materials from the waste created from the ongoing construction works (typically these would be put into their segregated waste streams and removed from site).
- Top soil was retained for future use but an area was levelled, spread and seeded early in the planting season so preparation of the garden area could begin.
- Cable drums from the site establishment were kept, cut down to size and painted to create our 3 round tables.
- The trees were removed for the Scottish Power cable route as advised by client; these were cut down into stumps of around 500mm high and slightly sanded to form 12



Photo: Eco shed with key facts on biodiversity

- seats to go with our round tables.
- Old tyres from the local garage adjacent to the site were given & reused as planters for the lavender.
- The lavender was kindly donated by the Project Manager who is a keen gardener, he also advised that these plants will encourage bees and therefore pollination and bio diversity.
- The Water Butt and guttering for the eco-shed was previously used on another Bam project.
- The Eco board highlights aims and environmental KPI's- this was constructed with two cuttings of ply from the
- construction works along with an astro-turf frame to enhance the feel of the area.
- An insect hotel was created with items from segregated from the waste stream. In terms of what was previously on site, there has definitely been a noted increase in biodiversity and as a site more people are now aware of some of the simple things that can be done in regards to biodiversity.

The objectives of this project have been met- it began as a personal project for a site member and then developed into including 'do one thing', biodiversity and getting other site members involved.

It resulted in a useable social space being created that has provided many benefits across the site.

This scheme will be revisited across the remainder of the project and then reviewed when moving onto the next project.

The lessons learned include the planning involved in adapting and creating this type of biodiversity enhancement and also in maximising the reuse of materials on site (being innovative with what can be re-used and in what way).

The full process has been a great learning experience and can now be used as a learning resource on various sites.

What was your personal motivation for carrying out the enhancement?

The initial driving force for creating this space began following a training course with the local High School.

This course was about the reuse of materials and this sparked the idea to create this space with surplus materials from the construction phase.

Along with this was the fact that Kirkcaldy has entered 'Britain in Bloom' and have made a big effort in the surrounding area by



Photo: Finished garden with notice board

creating some beautiful garden spaces within the community.

This led to the creation of a garden space for all on site to use.