

Insert Project Name: TKJV Wraysbury Highway Maintenance Depot

Insert Project Location – Wraysbury, London

TKJV

BIG Biodiversity Challenge Award Category: **Habitat Creation – small scale biodiversity enhancement**

Project overview (50 words max)

- TKJV Highways Maintenance Depot, Wraysbury, London
- Our operational colleagues, led by Marian Amarioarei, have set about transforming our London Highways Maintenance Depot into a small oasis for plants and wildlife.

What were the biodiversity conditions on site prior to the enhancement? (100 words max)

- Prior to Marian's work, this was a highway depot with no greenery at all. It was a tarmacked yard.
- Inspired to make improvements and by Kier's Depot in Bloom competition Marion set up a small team of operational colleagues and set about using their skills to create green space within the depot which has attracted bees, birds and dragonflies. As well as flowers the team are growing vegetables including carrots and radishes this year. In the previous year they grew strawberries and watermelons successfully.

What were the reasons behind this project? (100 words max)

- The scheme started to improve the depot environment, when the depot manager decided that he could use planter to edge the site rather than kerbs. It then progressed to become an award winning depots in bloom entrant.
- Waste materials coming into the depot from flytipping and offcuts from works completed are repurposed and upcycled by the team.
- They have successfully created a pleasant green space for colleagues to take breaks.
- Encouraging bees, other pollinators and wildlife in a very urban setting.



The depot at the contract start prior to surfacing and green space creation.



Seating area and planters made from flytipped / unused materials

What were the biodiversity measures taken? (300 words max)

- Marion, along with some operational colleagues based at the depot, have entered our Depots in Bloom competition for the last two years and were the overall winners in 2022. They will be entering again this year. They have inspired colleagues at our other London depots to also take part in the competition.
- When TKJV moved into the depot in April 2020 it was a fully tarmacked area with no green space within our site boundary. The depot manager saw an opportunity to edge the site by building planters out of waste materials rather than using kerbs.
- All the green space created by Marion and the team is completely new. They have created a seating area for colleagues to take breaks in. They have built planters from discarded materials from flytipping, off cuts from projects, repurposed old tyres and used broken pallets not suitable for reuse. These have been placed around the depot in areas not utilised for works.
- The team planted all sorts of fruit, veg, herbs, plants and flowers with the most popular being over 2m tall corn, sunflowers with huge multiple heads, (the bees loved them and then so did the birds for the seeds) vast amounts of tomatoes that people took home and the biggest surprise of all was the success of the Watermelons which thrived in the depot. Over 10 were grown.
- These depot improvements have been entirely down to the local workforce. They won the Kier Depots in Bloom competition in 2022 and continue to inspire others to create green spaces.



The team have reused waste materials to create planters and grow wildflowers



Growing fruit and vegetables

Further information (250 words max)

- Marian and some of the operational team based at the depot have made these improvements over the last couple of years in their break and lunchtimes. When waste materials have come into the depot the team repurpose them for planters, seating and similar. They utilised waste piping to create an irrigation system for their vegetation garden and even some flytipped gates have been reused.
- Prior to the teams work this depot was an entirely tarmacked area with no greenery at all. In addition to the flowers, trees and vegetables grown here now there are bees, dragonflies and other insects utilising the vegetation constantly through the spring / summer season.
- The improvements the team here have made has already inspired our other London depots to take part in the competition and colleagues appreciate a nicer outdoor environment particularly in the spring and summer period. Many also enjoy dipping in and if not planting, assisting with watering.

Project Team

- Israel Rivadeneira (Depot Supervisor and supporting manager)
- Marian Amarioarei
- Vasile Ngulescu
- Nicolae Ciocan
- Roberto Arruda

What was the motivation for carrying out the enhancement? (100 words max)

Marion and team at Wraysbury depot decided they would like to enter our voluntary Depots in Bloom competition, create a nicer environment for the workforce and encourage pollinator and other insects.



Planters made from reused materials

