

# Small Biodiversity Grant Report

2024/25

## CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION .....	3
ALL SAINTS NURSERY	
Forest School .....	4
WICKHAMBREAUX VILLAGE HALL	
Garden improvements .....	6
CHISLET PARISH COUNCIL	
Bird and bat boxes, insect hotel and monitoring for community engagement .....	7
LOVE HAMBROOK MARSHES	
Livestock fencing .....	8
KENTISH STOUR COUNTRYSIDE PARTNERSHIP	
Standard tree planting .....	9
STREAM WALK COMMUNITY GARDEN	
Pollinator bedding and rustic signage .....	10
WESTBERE PARISH COUNCIL	
Bird and bat boxes .....	11

## INTRODUCTION

In November 2024, Canterbury City Council opened up the first round of the biodiversity grant fund to the public; allowing for interested local organisations to submit an application outlining their intended project and how the funding will assist in their project delivery. Projects eligible for funding needed to effectively meet the described criteria. The criteria were heavily focused on improvements to local biodiversity and community engagement. All projects had to be within the boundary of the Canterbury District and a fully costed plan was required.

The total amount of funding on offer was £15k and was split between successful applicants. Bids were welcomed up to a value of £7,500 and all spend has to be made by close of the 2024/25 financial year. Upon closure of the application window, a total of 10 applications were submitted totalling £28k,

meaning comprehensive scoring was undertaken to determine the successful applicants. A total of seven organisations received funding for their biodiversity project and these organisations were either fully or part awarded based on the elements of their proposed project that best delivered for biodiversity and/or the community.

2025 will see the continuation of the biodiversity and Canterbury City Council will once again be offering a total of £15k to be split between successful applicants.

The following is a summary of the projects delivered by the 2024/25 grant winners and where possible images of before and after project delivery

## ALL SAINTS NURSERY Forest School



All Saints Nursery submitted a bid to develop a new forest school to land at the rear of their nursery. The Nursery evidently demonstrate their understanding of the importance of spaces such as forest schools. They also have developed a climate change action plan.

The 3rd Whitstable Scout Group, also reside in close proximity to the land and are working with the nursery to complete the ground work, with the help of their enrolled scouts. The scouts will also use the site for outdoor activities all of which will provide new skills and badges for the scouts.

This application offered something different to other entries and was awarded the grant largely for the level of engagement and educational output this could achieve with the local community, both in its construction phase and post completion. The nursery hopes to offer this space for other educational institutions and to bring greater ecological awareness to children who are just starting to learn about the natural world.

The area has been used informally before, with broken benches, old tire swings and make shift fire pit. The grant will bring a new lease of life to the area and formalise any activities for the children, whilst ensuring they remain safe in this outdoors space. There is also an overgrown pond, which the nursery plan to improve to facilitate pond dipping sessions.



## WICKHAMBREAUX VILLAGE HALL

### Garden improvements



Wickhambreaux Village Hall were successful in their application to improve their publicly accessible garden to the front of the village hall. The aims of the project aligned with much of the grant criteria. The space is communal, planting is well considered and suitable for the local environment, maintenance will be minimalist and undertaken by volunteers. Further to this the parish plan to engage with the community via education sessions in the garden. The scheme was delivered by a local gardener who showed strong awareness of the importance of planting for pollinator. He also provided his services for free for the benefit of the community

The garden is to include naturalistic flower beds, and the village hall has also installed hard surfacing into the garden with benches for community use, thanks to external funding sourced separately. This will dramatically improve the space and allow people to enter into the garden to experience the full benefits of the improvement that the biodiversity grant has provided.

## CHISLET PARISH COUNCIL

### Bird and bat boxes, insect hotel and monitoring for community engagement

Chislet Parish Council were successful in their biodiversity grant application for the installation of bird and bat boxes, an insect hotel and monitoring devices. This scheme not only plans to install items beneficial for biodiversity, but also to monitor and engage with the community via educational outputs.

This approach is a great example of how to not only improve habitat but in the same breath also provide benefits for the community whilst building knowledge and sharing awareness of local biodiversity within the parish.



## LOVE HAMBROOK MARSHES

### Livestock fencing



Love Hambrook Marshes were successful in their biodiversity bid for livestock fencing as the benefits associated to sustainable livestock grazing for local ecological can be significant. Love Hambrook Marshes aim to balance agricultural productivity with the preservation of natural habitats. This will enhance diversity of habitats and the growth of native grassland vegetation and provide habitat for wildlife such as bees, small mammals and other pollinators.

The fencing allows for the grazing of livestock in a safe and contained environment. Without the improvements to the fencing, grazing may not be able to take place, preventing the benefits associated with sustainably grazed livestock. Volunteers will also be engaged with to help clear the scrub for fencing installation.

## KENTISH STOUR COUNTRYSIDE PARTNERSHIP

### Standard tree planting

Kentish Stour Countryside Partnership won their bid to plant standard trees at Field Avenue in Northgate, Canterbury. The benefits of trees are well understood, from carbon sequestration to biodiversity gains, to their amenity value.

This scheme will enhance the green space, in an otherwise deprived area. Consultation was undertaken with local residents to better understand their needs and concerns regarding the existing green space. A new planting scheme was then drawn up taking into the consideration the concerns and suggestions of the local residents.



## STREAM WALK COMMUNITY GARDEN

### Pollinator bedding and rustic signage



Stream Walk Community Garden were successful in their bid to bring biodiversity enhancements to their garden. The garden provides a welcoming, creative and inclusive environment for all ages, strengthening their grant application due to potential outcomes both for people and for the local ecology.

The garden promotes a real communal ethos and aims to share knowledge and build skills around gardening for those also from disadvantaged backgrounds.

The funding from the biodiversity grant was spent on plugs and bulbs for their new wildflower meadow, hedgerow management to reduce overgrowth and rustic signage for key features around the site, including the new wildflower meadow. As the meadow is in its infancy, the images do not provide the best indication of the wildflowers. However, the presence of yellow rattle within the meadow is a good indicator of potentially successful meadow, due to its effectiveness at reducing the dominance of grass.

## WESTBERE PARISH COUNCIL

### Bird and bat boxes

Westbere Parish Council installed bird and bat boxes with their awarded grant; a simple but effective measure to support local biodiversity.

The installation was completed by volunteers and will be inspected yearly to ensure they remain in good condition. The material for the bird box insulates and ensures a more consistent temperature for survival. The bat box is suitable for crevice roosting bats and has a rough interior to provide lots of grip. The black exterior absorbs heat from the sun so bats can increase their body temperature before flight.

The parish have also expressed their desire to share any outcomes of the installation, leading to a better understanding of bat populations within the district.



