

Network Development Grant: Greening Arundel Case Study



RHS Hampton Court Garden Festival
July 2024



The Gift That Keeps On Giving

Donated plants
from RHS
Hampton Court
2023



Seven fold
increase at
our allotment
by 2024

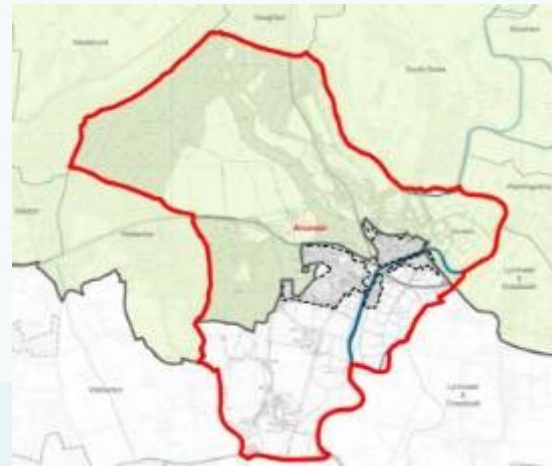


....and Transforming



Arundel

- Small market town in West Sussex
- Situated on the river Arun
- Bordering the South Downs National Park
- Boasts a castle, cathedral, churches, museum, theatre, lake, Wetland Centre, Lido etc
- Population of 3,500
- Two primary schools
- A care home



Greening Arundel



- An alliance of 15 organisations formed in February 2023, includes three levels of government, plus the South Downs
- Supported by the 30 member Green Team of volunteers: roughly 100 hours per month
- In 2023, obtained funding from Arundel Town Council, the South Downs Trust, the Sussex Ornithological Society, GTR/Southern Rail and the Royal Horticultural Society



Network Development Proposal

- To build synergy, enhance sustainability, and harness collective potential for a cleaner, greener Arundel (£4,770)
 - Rent an allotment
 - Purchase a greenhouse
 - Buy plants, seeds and soil
 - Hold public training events on green space management and wildlife welfare
 - Develop informational, promotional and educational materials



Achievements - strategy

- During the summer of 2023, six working groups developed a five-year strategy and two-year action plan endorsed by the Town Council
 - Increase bio-diversity and bio-abundance
 - Improve the environmental value of green spaces
 - Protect and nurture endangered species
 - Reduce environmental damage
 - Increase community engagement
 - Strive for sustainability



Achievements - allotment

- Rented two allotments (plants and trees)
- Obtained and assembled a free greenhouse



Achievements – bio-diversity

- Native hedgerow, pollinator-friendly plants and wildflowers along two 120m beds and in the forecourt at the train station watered by Aldingbourne Trust



- Pollinator Garden, Quayside bed and six upcycled cattle troughs planted with herbs, edible flowers and pollinator-friendly plants watered by local businesses and residents



Achievements – public events

- Bring Back Our Birds (B-BOB) October 2023
= 60+ attendees led to 60 “host” commitments
- Foraged and Found Rewilding Supper
November 2023 = 45 attendees
- Haven for Hedgehogs event January 2024 = 47
attendees and formation of Hedgehog Club
- Going Wild About Your Garden event May 2024
= 59 attendees and 26 sign-ups for wildlife
monitoring and reporting



Achievements - training

- Two bird spotting and reporting sessions
- Two insect monitoring and reporting sessions



Achievements – youth engagement

- Primary schools grew nasturtiums from seed
- College students volunteered for a day



- We held a Sunflower Festival at both primary schools
- Sunflowers planted and mosaics planned



Achievements - promotion

- Articles in the Sussex Gazette, Bell Magazine, SOS newsletter, South Downs News and the *RHS Community Gardening News*
<https://www.rhs.org.uk/get-involved/community-gardening/news/articles/greening-arundel>



Achievements - B-BOB

- Tapped into huge passion
- House Martin Tower installed in Community Orchard
- Following a scoping exercise and public event, 66 nests were installed across 38 locations in 3 clusters!
- Almost £1,500 of public donations received in phase 1



Lessons and Tips

- Build a shared vision and work towards common goals, while delivering individual wins
- Attract knowledge, experience, skills, ideas and energy to plan, deliver, monitor and report
- Tap into latent passion
- Give credit, keep momentum and bring rewards
- Add value where it matters
- Seek multiplier effect – become sustainable

(£8,000 additional funding obtained in 2023)



Thanks and Contacts

- We are grateful to the Arundel Gardens Association for facilitating access to the RHS
- Thanks to the RHS for the Network Development Grant, which has been instrumental in galvanising the Greening Arundel alliance – giving us the confidence, credibility and resources to move ahead
- <https://www.facebook.com/ArundelGreenTeam/>
- Contact: greenteam.arundel@gmail.com

