

# Live Here Love Here Small Grant Scheme 2017

Case Studies of successful Live Here Love Here Small Grant Scheme Projects



# Space to Grow

The project brought together a group of men who were involved in Men's Shed and who had showed an interest in a garden space.

The men started the project by organising a big breakfast event and incorporated this into the initial clearing of the garden from all debris, overgrown plants, trees etc and they organised a further two events as a group for the progression of the garden area.

In between times the individuals worked daily on garden developing a raised decking area, decorative stoned area, replacing slabs and generally laying out the space so that future work can be carried out in order to complete the garden.

This project has proved invaluable in bringing men together and watching them develop friendships, share knowledge and skills. It has given them a great sense of pride and achievement.



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# Operation Garden Transformation

This project set about clearing the garden at the rear of our premises in Church Square, Rathfriland. Volunteers from Men's Shed and the Regeneration Co. worked together to prepare the site which generated teamwork and a sense of civic pride.

They removed stone walls they had previously built and replaced it with a safe accessible path from the yard to the garden where the poly tunnel and shed are now erected.

The men intend to grow a variety of edible and ornamental plants from seeds or cuttings, to fill window boxes and beds in the new community garden. They will design and produce garden furniture in the adjacent shed for use in the community garden.



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# Spring Bulb Bonanza Stage 3 - Ballycraigy Style!

Around 60 young people from Ballycraigy Primary School and Muckamore Pre School Playgroup worked together to plant Daffodil, Crocus and Tulip bulbs to create a sunburst of floral display outside Muckamore Playgroup and Pre School to help improve the aesthetic look of the new trail.

It will add more colour to the area for the community to share. Ballycraigy Primary School is known for its wonderful garden and pupils are proud to share this influence. The older children designed the bulb planting sunburst.

A dad was even conscripted to bring his digger in and lift the top soil to make the planting easier!

There were a couple of spare bags of daffodils left over, so the Ballycraigy Gardening Community group (6 volunteer parents) came to the rescue and planted them out around the school grounds.



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# Enhancing Wee Fergie's Kingdom

The area up at the Methodist Church has long been neglected because it was a bit of a no man's land. Over the past seven years the community have been developing the area the local council provided a seat. It has proved extremely popular with locals, who use the Carrick bypass for walking and is becoming increasingly well used now that we have a book box in the vicinity.

The grant from LHLH has allowed the group to make something more of the tractor area. It was looking very sorry for itself and was in need of a new plinth to raise it up, it needed repainting and the whole area was highlighted for improvement by the Best Kept judges, who remarked that the 'Grounds and hedge around the tractor could be improved'. Wee Fergie is now away being repainted and the contractors have done a great job with the new sleepers, stones and shrubs in the area. Which will be maintained by the volunteers



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# Outdoor Learning Eco Classroom: Phase 1

The quality of the school grounds has been improved, helping to instil pride in the pupils. The community have been invited in through our inter-generational projects and the school have established a link with Sunnyside Residential Home in Bangor. Pupils were present at the opening of the Sunnyside Sensory Garden opening and they hosted an orientation afternoon around their garden. Then Ballymagee ECO Club hosted 7 residents from Sunnyside, the pupils benefitted greatly from this shared venture. They planted bulbs and herbs together combatting inter-generational barriers through this joint venture.

Parents and volunteers created a shared Eco Garden. This garden will provide countless opportunities for outdoor learning within our school community.

The project has empowered young people to take ownership of a shared community area.



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# School Entrance Regeneration Project

The garden area at the entrance of the school was over grown, unused and very unwelcoming.

The school is set off the road and not noticeable. It also encourages anti-social behaviour such as littering and dog waste left around the school gates as it is over grown and unused.

The project rejuvenated the over grown unfriendly and un-used school entrance into a beautiful, functional area which is inviting to guests and community.

The area is now less scary for pupils and an area that the school, parish, and community can be proud of.

By fitting a bench for seating as well as an area to safely store pupils bicycles, it has now become a usable functional garden area and will deter the littering (including empty alcoholic bottles and cans) and dog waste being left.



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# Garden Oasis

The Garden Oasis has greatly improved the quality of the resident's lives, it has instilled pride and cut down greatly on dog fouling/dumping. Residents said, "It is great to reclaim our entry back!"

The Garden Oasis is a showcase, residents living in the other streets are stopping to look at it and taking photographs. The group have received lots of phone calls from people in the area who would love the same environmental change carried out in their Alleyways.

50 entry walls were painted, using base paint donated by the NIHE which covered the graffiti, 50 back doors were painted in various bright colours. A range of stencils were used on the doors, volunteers put up the Trellis with climbing ivy and hung flower baskets and planters.



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# Polytunnel with Raised Beds

Solas purchased and install a polytunnel with raised beds for use by the various groups.

Due to the inclement weather growing has been severely hampered, however the beds are ready for sowing and the plan is in place to involve local volunteers with the young people to grow vegetables and herbs.

The project has focused on environmental improvement involving the disability community (who are very often excluded from initiatives) in a real live working project.

The relationship between SOLAS, the Ormeau Grow Group and TCV is starting to bed in and there is now a real opportunity to engage the wider community in this growing project as well as ensure inclusion.



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# Carnegie Oldpark Vertical Garden Project

This project aimed to improve the quality of the local environment and instil civic pride within the community. Carnegie Oldpark Library remains a beacon of hope for the local community.

After the library was abandoned, the surrounding showed signs of neglect and vandalism, while the enclosed yards had become a dumping place, causing problems to the residents of the area. Volunteers learned how to plant flowers and vegetables and applied their new skills.

During April, they are planning to transfer the plants from the pots to the vertical panels and complete the project.

The local residents are excited seeing the surrounding area flourish again, while volunteers were excited for the new skills they gained and they wish to take care of the garden now on.



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# We Love the Fountain

This productive and beautiful space does not only benefit the community, but as the allotments are situated close to the Derry Walls also prove to be a tourist attraction.

The allotments when complete will be evidence of how the Fountain Community Love where they reside and are proud of this achievement which they refer to as The Bastion Allotments. Additional funding from was secured from the Halifax Foundation which will help to finish the project to a very high standard.

Throughout the project the group completed workshops which educated the participants in personal development, communication and leadership skills which gave them the confidence to discuss and form opinions and ideas, support each other and really get involved in the project. The workshops also provided the participants with additional information on environmental improvement.

The participants have taken an interest in growing their own plants and vegetables and in the summer will be able to provide the community with flower boxes and hanging baskets to enhance their gardens, this will brighten up the area and give a sense of pride to the residents.



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# Nurture Nature

The project helped improve the local environment with the help of volunteers and local pupils.

The Nurture Nature schools workshop addressed key environmental issues including litter, fly tipping, dog foul, gorse fires and off road vehicles. A litter audit highlighted litter having the biggest impact on the community, in Creggan the main items were plastic bottles, cans and take away containers. A future project will look at how pupils can spread the word in their community and to local businesses on reduce, reuse and recycle message.

Hedgehog homes, insect hotels and bird boxes will be included in the Habitat Management Plan and will be checked regularly.

The sensory garden will support priority species including bats and provide a safe controlled education and recreation space for disabled and early year's groups to use be used during mammal tracking, storytelling, outdoor art and bug hunt workshops as part of the ongoing environmental education programme 'Nature's Classroom.'



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# The Building Blocks Project

Young people worked with two facilitators plus support from volunteers on the environmental concepts and principles.

The basic concept of the comic was that the children would produce an information comic which would focus on the need to be aware of the dangers and impact of litter and dog fouling on their communities and environment.

Part 1 focused on the illustration and story boarding aspect of the comic's creation. A lot of time was spent on this as they wanted the students to be fully aware of the environmental aspect.

Part 2 focused on the digital creation by the children of their comic charters, seven characters were developed with the strong messages they wished to get across.

The comics were developed by year 8 students from St Brigids College and presentations were made to primary one pupils at St Therese Primary School.



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# Loughmacrory Community Development Association

The aim of the project was to create community garden and allotment area. The garden is situated adjacent to the Youth & Community Centre and was an area that has fallen into disrepair and is extremely overgrown.

As part of the project the group:

- Used a mini digger to clear rubble, overgrown shrub and to level out into a flat useable area
- Constructed raised beds/allotments
- Imported top soil and compost
- Erected a perimeter fence
- Installed a sign to indicate this is a community garden
- Purchased some small tools to help with gardening work.



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# Community Kitchen Garden

The project included construction of 3 new poly-tunnels over the raised beds in the Community Kitchen Garden.

As funding awarded was less than the amount applied for, a reduction in project costs had to be made. This was achieved by constructing the poly-tunnels from a waterpipe and timber framework made by the volunteer team.

The polythene covers were also put on by the volunteer team and a summer seat and entrance arch constructed, soil enriched with manure and the ground surface dressed with a covering of pea gravel.

The community kitchen garden now has an improved appearance as well as improved functionality, extending the growing season and range of crops that can be grown.



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# Community Action with Guiding

This project has taken an area in the local village and transformed it into a lovely bright flowerbed maintained by the young Guide members.

The transformed space is in a visible area and it has been great for local folk and cars driving past to see young people and Guiding in action within the community.



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# Wonderful Willow Weaving Whitehead

Brighter Whitehead created the sculptures that are surrounded with a small community garden of native fruit, vegetables and herbs. These are situated in the heart of the community at Bank House and can be used as a free food source for locals.



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# Wildflower Sanctuary

The aim of the project was to support the Primary 7 pupils and parents to work together to transform a disused space at the side of the school which also backs onto the newly redeveloped community hall into a wildflower garden.

This abandoned area can be seen by visitors to the town of Stewartstown who are attending events at the community hall.

The school now wishes to develop and improve this area into an attractive and environmentally friendly space which can be seen by the school and wider public.



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# Susan's Trail, Biodiversity Health Trail

St. Colm's High School developed a Biodiversity Trail, walking path through wildlife area, improving health & well-being and biodiversity in the parish.

It provides biodiversity education for all local schools in the Screen Eco-schools partnership and primary schools in Desertmartin. It is currently used for walking safely by community members.

This grant further developed boundary fencing where the ground was too wet for hedging, extensions to existing hedgerow and re-sowing of the wildflower meadow. The Men's Shed will make seating for the area with wood bought by the project. Existing seating and fences have been painted by pupils, staff and volunteers from Men's Shed, STEPS and the local community.



## Susan's Trail

Our Biodiversity Trail

<p><b>1. Outdoor Eco-education Area.</b> Provides seating for 30 people.</p>	<p><b>4. Native woodland</b> Planted by our local primary schools and St Colm's pupils, this area will provide a home to mini-beasts which in turn is food for birds &amp; mammals.</p>	<p><b>6 &amp; 7. Insect hotel &amp; Log pile</b> This habitat made completely of natural recycled materials provides a home to pollinators &amp; pest controllers, such as wild bees, spiders &amp; ladybugs.</p>	<p><b>9. Wetlands</b> Wetlands directly improve other ecosystems. The ability of wetlands to recycle nutrients makes them critical in the overall functioning of earth.</p>	<p><b>11 &amp; 12. Area of Reflection</b> Dedicated to the memory of loved ones connected to Ballinacross and Desertmartin parishes, this area provides a tranquil place as well as a multi-sensory experience for all.</p>
<p><b>2. Feeding station/Species recording</b> Our primary aim is to increase biodiversity in this area and record the success through a thorough species identification programme. Planting has been carried out to ensure food supply.</p>	<p><b>5. Native flowers</b> This includes anemones, bluebells, daisies, primroses, buttercups, wood anemones, and fox gloves which provide a home to insects, butterflies, birds &amp; mammals.</p>	<p><b>8. Nesting boxes &amp; bat boxes</b> Designed to provide sites for blue tits, coal tits and sparrows &amp; bats to breed, nest and roost. These sites were chosen to provide most of the food needed by adults &amp; young during this busy time.</p>	<p><b>10. Pond</b> Provides a haven for wildlife such as frogs, small water beetles, zooplankton and much more. As the pond develops pupils will learn more about this ecosystem during pond dipping lessons.</p>	<p><b>13. Wildflower meadow</b> This is a natural home for butterflies, bees and grasshoppers. Planted with grasses and native wildflowers, including ox-eye daisy, huckle and gerine it is both colourful and useful to our biodiversity of the area.</p>



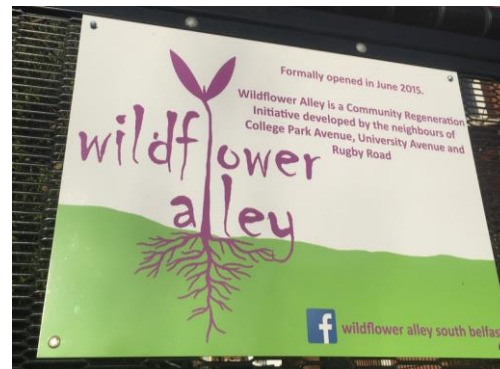
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# Wildflower Alley 'Meet The Neighbours' Project

The funding from Live Here Love Here has enabled the residents to deepen and extend links with students from both universities, create collaboration and mutual support between existing and new residents in the Wildflower Alley area.

The project has enhanced awareness of new recycling methods and provide information on use of existing rubbish disposal such as household black bin provision.

The project creates a positive image of the area to overcome current negative profile of the South Belfast Holyland area.



# Outdoors Outreach

The project involved the purchase of 2 high quality and branded gazebos to serve as outdoor classrooms for school groups and volunteers during riverside events.

The group also purchased a brushcutter which was used to clear the wildflower meadow space. the group also purchased 1kg of wildflower seeds to add to the species in the existing meadow, the group engaged with local schools to help with the activities.

A large number of bird boxes were also installed in the local area.



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# Green Fingered Community Champions

The project was delivered by volunteers from Leafair Community Association who are already involved in gardening and allotment projects and have knowledge in this particular field.

The response from the schools was very positive and most of the schools nurseries and playgroups within the area wanted to be involved.

The benefits for the project were that the children in the local area are involved in the regeneration of their school and gave them a sense them a sense of pride and ownership in their school and surrounding area.

From the project the young people have gained knowledge of how to plant and grown their own vegetable and this is something that they can also do at home with their families.

The volunteers that are involved in the project have said that they have felt quite an improvement in their own mental health and well-being and that getting out and being active has had quite a positive impact on their day to day life.



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# Edge: The Streets

Ballynahinch is a community often defined by high suicide rates or traffic jams on the way to Newcastle. Since beginning this project, the group have seen a new definition for the town-unity, hard work and investment.

Young people, their parents, grandparents and neighbours are coming together to create a space that will benefit the community on many levels. A space to connect and learn, qualifications, new hobbies and interests, new relationships, food for families struggling financially and the support to develop these skills in their own homes/ gardens, young people learning the importance of giving back and having an interest in our society etc.

In the three months the group have been building the garden there has been an improvement in generations in the community finding a common interest, teaching each other new skills and seeking ways of using the tunnel to bring about support to the wider community.



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# A Peal of Bluebells

A Peal of Bluebells aimed to create an understorey of wildflowers in Canal Wood, for the benefit of pollinators and visitors to this much loved woodland. With the provision of a new bench adjacent to the planting area, visitors are now able to spend more time appreciating the tranquility of their surroundings, in this very special place.

One highlight was the superb team effort displayed by the volunteers (all of bus pass age!) during the installation of the 3 sectioned bench. Another was the wonderful atmosphere generated by all the visitors on the planting day with their interest in both the woodland and the project. For many it was the first opportunity they had had to plant wildflowers.



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# Shimna Neighbourhood

The students of the Shimna Prince's Trust group applied for accessible, waist high vegetable planters and a subscription to a year of vegetable plants. The students assembled the planters, discussed crops with the neighbouring Fold residents and then students and residents planted together. The regular arrival of vegetables to be planted sustains the relationship, and Fold residents have a crop of winter salad vegetables to see them through the hungry months.

A new batch of plants is due to arrive, and the group hope that the project will be an ongoing one with their neighbours and will also continue to spark off other mutually beneficial ventures, eg. Litter picking in the shared lane, carol singing at Christmas etc.



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# Combating Litter in Your Community

Live Here Love Here has recruited a band of forward thinking community groups and volunteers who will introduce some innovative methods to combat litter and dog fouling in their communities.

Groups are introducing brightly coloured footprints to bins to guide the public to do the right thing; posters with eyes on them that glow in the dark to deter dog fouling and specially designed bins that allows users to 'vote with their butt' by using cigarette butts.



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# Posters

Designed using solid principles of behavioural science, posters like this reduced dog fouling in their surrounding area by almost 50% during a pilot study at 140 locations.

These posters even glow in the dark!



# #2minutebeachclean Board

Got 2 minutes? Want to make a difference? Of course you do. Just two minutes spent picking up the litter you might see is time well spent. It makes the beach look better and every piece of litter that you remove from the environment is no longer a danger to the animals that live there.

The idea of the beach clean station was conceived in 2014 as a way of making it easier for everyone to do their bit. There are currently over 200 beach clean boards across the UK and Ireland.

The boards are A-boards with a holder for litter pickers and a windproof slot for used plastic bags. They are self supporting and messages can be personalised.



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# Thank You

These projects have been made possible by the continued support of the Live Here Love Here partners. Without the financial assistance provided none of these innovative, environmental and community focused projects would have been possible; the projects will not only benefit the communities today but will continue to do so for many years to come.

**Thank you to all our partners for your support**



Thank you to all our partners for your continued support. Not already a partner but want to support Live Here Love Here? Please contact: [enquiries@livehereandlovehere.org](mailto:enquiries@livehereandlovehere.org)