

Environmental Action South Yorkshire - Rotherham

Name of project or group

Environmental Action South Yorkshire - Harthill, Wales and Kiverton Rotherham



What actions for nature did your group want to take and why?

We started being involved in Rotherham Climate Action group and that is how I, Cllr Marnie Harvard met Liz Ballard and Nicky Rivers and became interested in Nature Recovery Rotherham. I'm particularly interested in making the SRWT a key link, a partnership with the council. I have always been interested in taking action for nature and keen to make links with communities and the nature in their local area.

' I Think you know as you experience things that you feel that's not right. And luckily I have travelled quite a lot in the world and I've seen a lot of nature and so when I see it being stripped away. I have lived down South. I mean there's not a tree or a park hardly left in some areas. You have to stand up for what's right '

What have you done so far?

We have set up a community garden at the peregrine centre in Harthill, pruned the bushes, made it nice for the local people which is all council tenant led. We are growing vegetables and have a greenhouse. We would also like to have a community tree project in the future behind those flats.

We have made good links with the people at the colliery in Kiverton who have done some wildflower planting. There are plans for a community garden in Kiverton with fruit trees which will be great for areas like this in deprivation to bring people together and people will become more interested in nature.

We also want to plant some trees in Spens field which we need some support with and we are going to fence off an area and rewild it. In Spens field we planted hundreds of bulbs in 2021 with local school children.

Paul Rowland - When I became a Parish councillor I was very keen to get involved in rewilding areas as I had read a lot about this. I worked with RMBC on the concept of having more wildflowers in Harthill. People came from miles around to see the wildflowers and take photographs and one of the photographs featured on Look North Weather three nights in a row. I was thrilled. Where was this project?

Our most recent project has involved getting FS2 (4 yr old) school children from Harthill Primary School to open the new play area as well as plant and seed bomb wildflowers at Spens Field Harthill.

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The parish council has also made 13 bird boxes and a bat box which we have involved local children with and are putting these up in and around the area. This was made possible by local people donating wood for the project.

What resources or support did you use?

We have used the support of the local community who have donated materials and their time to projects. We have used the support in the Nature recovery toolkit and support from RMBC and Sheffield & Rotherham Wildlife Trust.

How did you empower or involve others?

We have involved local people in planning projects, ideas for how they would like their local area to look and worked with schools, the parish council and residents to improve their local areas.

What's next?

We would like to increase wildflowers in the area and would like some support from SRWT to gain funding for the project. We are planning to create some woodland area on Spens field and would like to involve either SRWT or RMBC in the creation of this wooded area. We are planning on creating a community forestry project at the back of the Peregrine Centre which also would be exciting.