

Boston Big Local Quarterly Report April – June 2022

Naturehood Project

The Friendly Bench, Ancaster Court

We held a Naturehood activity morning at the Friendly Bench on 6th April. We planted wildflower plug plants and seeds around the Friendly Bench, participants also planted a plug plant in a pot to take home with them. I was supported by the conservation officer from Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust. The event was attended by residents of Ancaster Court and local families (12 people).



The Men's Shed, Fenside Community Centre

On 7th April, we worked with the Men's Shed at the Fenside Community Garden and made a bug hotel and we made some planters out of tyres and planted wildflower plants.



Central Park – Dementia Action Week

As part of Dementia Action Week on 17th May, I worked with Boston Borough Council on an event in Central Park. We made pots out of newspaper and planted wildflower plug plants, we made mini bug homes, and made seed bombs. Seventeen people attended the event.



Geoff Moulder Community Garden



The Men's Shed made a wildflower garden sign for the Geoff Moulder Community Garden. This will be placed in the mini wildflower meadow they created here as part of the Naturehood project. The Men's Shed will be making more rustic wildflower garden signs for the other sites we have created and there will be a more formal Naturehood sign in Central Park.

Boston Library

I had a table in the library on 1st June promoting the Naturehood project and environmental projects. They had anticipated it would be a busy morning as it was Market Day and they were also holding a coffee morning but there wasn't many people coming into the library and I saw 9 people.

Working with Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust

Since the start of the project, I have been working with Amanda Jenkins, Conservation Officer, from the Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust. She retired in May but has offered to help me on occasions as a volunteer. Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust is being extremely supportive – they are helping me prepare a pilot Naturehood area for Central Park, this will run a free workshop in Central Park in September "practical meadow creation & management". This will be free to attend for volunteers and local organisations. As part of this project, we will also be running a free community Naturehood event in Central Park on a Saturday in September, and I have been successful in getting funding (£502) from the ASDA Foundation to put on this event. Two members of LWT staff: conservation officer and education officer, will be attending events with me over the next couple of months to support me in delivering the naturehood project.

Management Plans

HS Ecology has now carried out site visits to all the main Naturehood sites and 5 year management plans have now been prepared. These have been forwarded on to the relevant landowners/managers.

Environmental Improvement Projects

River Litter Pick

The Haven, 28th May 2022

This was a very successful morning with 15 people helping out. ASDA supported the event and provided refreshments. We collected around 30 bags of litter plus lots of large bits of wood, metal and other bits and pieces.



A quote from one of the volunteers, Dave:

"I spotted the first River Witham clean-up and pick organised and shared by Jackie Lane on to the Wyberton Wombles Of Boston Common Facebook page, doing a section of this from Boston Rowing Club on the north end edge of the Town.

My Kirton Crew Wombles colleague Kathy joined me on this, what drew us to it and resonated with us and certainly touched something in me was the fact I couldn't think of anything more important to the local environment than keeping out of or extracting from the waterways anything plastic, toxic, metallic, etc, all so harmful to wildlife, birds and marine life. A lot of this type of waste inevitably harms all of these species and gets into the gut of fish in the rivers and out at sea where ultimately via micro particles returns in the food chain to harm mankind.

So pleased I came along to help in a small way to alleviate that, I enjoyed it so much I joined Jackie and another team, dragging along 4 more Wyberton Wombles on a further river pick on the south side of the town on The Haven section of The Witham. Two excellent picks very well co-ordinated by Jackie and sponsored and supported on the days by Lincolnshire Co-op and Asda".

Events at the Friendly Bench

As part of our agreement with the Friendly Bench we are required to hold monthly events at the Friendly Bench. In April, the Men's Shed met at the bench and we invited local residents to join them to find out more about what they do. As a result, the Men's Shed now has two new members. The Men's Shed has made us a seed exchange box to place at the Friendly Bench so local people can put any extra seeds they might have in the box and help themselves to any seeds in the box. This has been mounted on a stand so

that it can be taken in overnight. We now have a volunteer that waters the plants at the Friendly Bench on a regular basis. A bank account has now been set up.

On Thursday 2nd June we held a Jubilee Picnic at the Friendly Bench. The Co-op and The Men's Shed kindly supplied raffle prizes and Ancaster Court residents also donated prizes. The raffle made £132. We had around 60 people attend the picnic – we had activities for the children, Singing for Fun sang for us, and we had a keyboard playing providing music throughout.

Supporting Volunteers

We were successful in getting funding from the Co-op to support the Wyberton Wombles of Boston Common (£666.51). This will be used to purchase equipment for volunteers to use. I have also loaned a group from the wombles the grappling hook for them to use in removing litter from a dyke. I have given out litter pickers to three new volunteers who want to get involved in litter picking public areas.

Future events:

Litter Picking with local volunteers – 1st July and 28th July

Haven High Academy - Impact FEST 22, 6th July 2022

Festival of Creation, St. Boltoph's Church – 27th July 2022

Market Stall with Boston Borough Council – Wednesday 10th August - they will be providing children's activities and I will be promoting the naturehood project and environmental volunteering.

Beach events, Central Park – 18th and 19th August 2022

Naturehood community event in Central Park – September (date to be confirmed)

Workshop in Central Park "Practical Meadow Creation & Management – September (date to be confirmed).

PCN and Neighbourhood networking, Thursday 8th September 2022 at The Gliderdrome, Boston

Number of Volunteers during this period:

126 people have taken part in events plus the shedders (The Men's Shed) have been working hard creating habitat kits for us and wildflower garden signs, and we have supported 9 new volunteers independently improving their local area.

Jackie Lane, Lincolnshire Community & Voluntary Service, 1st July 2022