

Boston Big Local

Quarterly Report October – December 2022

Naturehood Project

Community Garden St Boltoph's

In November we spent a Saturday morning in the new community garden behind St. Boltoph's church, working with Curo CIC Community Farm and volunteers. We planted a mini native wildflower meadow, made bug boxes and cleared some of the area. I am in the process of arranging for an ecological study to be carried out on the site so that we can plan the best way forward, this is being paid for from the funding received from Shine. We will spend another morning in the garden with volunteers on Saturday 4 February.



Community Garden Geoff Moulder

In December we held a Naturehood project at the Geoff Mould Community Garden. We carried out some work on the previously planted native wildflower meadows and made some bug boxes and a hedgehog home.



Naturehood – Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust

I am working with Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust to create some interpretation boards for two of the Naturehood sites (Central Park and the new community garden behind St. Boltoph's Church). This will be funded by the grant received from Shine.

The Friendly Bench

We have continued to hold monthly events at the Friendly Bench. In October we tidied up the flowerbeds at the Friendly Bench, added some plants and some mulch, in November we held an event for Remembrance Day, and in December Singing for Fun joined us for some Carol Singing.

The Friendly Bench was also the launch site for BBC Radio Lincolnshire Pirate Gold in December. The radio interviewed us at the Friendly Bench to talk about the work we are doing there. We had a very well attended event when Singing for Fun joined us for Christmas songs followed by mince pies and hot chocolate.



Litter picks

I continue to support volunteers with their litter picks, loaning litter pickers and giving them gloves and red bags. I joined a town centre litter pick, working with the Wombles, on 29th November. A reporter from BBC 2 Newsnight joined us and talked to us about the work we are doing.

RiverCare

I am organising a litter pick along the bank of the tidal Haven in January – ASDA is supporting this by providing refreshments.

Platform Housing

I have met with the community connector from Platform Housing. They have some housing in the Boston Big Local area and she is keen to work with me, getting involved in projects, promoting what we are doing and getting her customers involved. We are planning on doing a litter pick in one of the areas where they have housing.

Town Jewels Project

Transported has been successful in getting funding for the Town Jewels Project working with Scott House and other partners. The project will seek positive actions in local green spaces in terms of environmental

and creative/aesthetic improvements with Scott House as the anchor-point for these environmental and creative interventions which will ripple out into the communities where the improvements are taking place. We will be working together to incorporate some of the existing Naturehood sites and this will give us the opportunity to work with local artists and other specialists (e.g. a carpenter, willow weaver) so enhancing what we can offer the local community. We plan to do regular sessions with Scott House and a separate regular sessions involving members of the community.

Good news story – Men’s Shed

I continue to work with the Men’s Shed and this is having great benefits for the Naturehood project. They continue to make us bird box and bug box kits and have now made us some hedgehog home kits. They have managed to get donations of timber for the kits and so they have not cost us very much money (we have just paid for screws, etc.). The work they are doing on the project has also given the men very worthwhile activities to be involved in. In appreciation of their support of the project, LCVS recently agreed to give any money raised through its Christmas raffle and during the year to the Men’s Shed to help fund their activities. So far LCVS has donated £106 to the Men’s Shed.

One of the volunteers that has recently joined in our litter picks is a young man called Cassius. Cassius has special needs and comes along with his mum and carers. Here is a quote from his mum:

“Joining our second litter pick in Boston gave us all a feeling of pride in our town and a sense of satisfaction to be able to collect several bags of litter. The group of people who volunteer are very welcoming and supportive, making us all feel part of the morning and it has become a very sociable event. To be able to contribute positively to the community we live in and keep clean the areas of the town we use and see regularly gives us all a sense of purpose. Volunteering has improved my son's physical health as well as self-confidence and he has learnt new skills and makes him feel more connected to his community.”

Future Plans

I will be working with the Sure Start Children’s Centre once a month, January – March, in Central Park on the Naturehood project. A litter pick is planned to take place in the Broadfield Lane area in February and two river cleans are planned (February and March). We will be making a bug hotel at the community garden behind St. Boltoph’s Church in February. I am in conversation with Boston Borough Council regarding a Naturehood project in Central Park and plan to hold a community day in March in the park when people can help make a bug hotel and log pile, plant wildflowers and get involved in other activities to enhance the site for wildlife. I will be working with Transported on the Town Jewels project.

Number of volunteers between October and December 2022:

Litter picks: 32

Men’s Shed volunteers – 9

Naturehood Projects - 25

Friendly Bench volunteers – 15

Regular volunteers - 28