



**Bexhill Youth and Community Centre, 10 Station Road, Bexhill on Sea
East Sussex, TN40 1RE**

Executive Summary

Nearly two years after receiving funding from Bexhill Town Council, the project has successfully transformed the site into a thriving wildlife-friendly environment that supports a wide range of plants, pollinating insects and birds. Biodiversity has increased significantly, with flourishing habitat areas and notable growth in bird activity, particularly among house sparrows. The project has also delivered substantial community benefits by creating a more attractive, welcoming and educational outdoor space for children, families, visitors and local residents. Overall, the investment has generated lasting environmental improvements while enhancing the everyday experience of those who use, enjoy and pass the centre.

Project Update – Two Years On

Nearly two years after receiving funding from Bexhill Town Council, we are delighted to report that the project has exceeded our original expectations and delivered lasting benefits for both wildlife and the local community.

Biodiversity and Environmental Impact

The original aim of the project was to build upon existing planting, increase biodiversity and create a more attractive and environmentally beneficial outdoor space for users of Bexhill Youth & Community Centre. Through careful development, ongoing maintenance and allowing areas to establish naturally, the project has evolved into a thriving wildlife-friendly environment.

The site now supports a diverse range of flowering plants throughout the growing season, providing valuable nectar and pollen sources for bees, butterflies and other pollinating insects. Wildlife-managed areas have established successfully and continue to mature and improve each year.

One of the most encouraging outcomes has been the significant increase in bird activity. House sparrows are now abundant throughout the site and are regularly observed feeding within the planted areas. In addition, other bird species including goldfinches, starlings and wood pigeons are regularly observed visiting the grounds



. More recently, we have witnessed the sparrows actively hunting insects amongst the planting, demonstrating that the garden is functioning as a genuine habitat rather than simply providing ornamental planting.

As with many successful environmental projects, some of the most positive outcomes were not fully anticipated at the outset. Natural regeneration, self-seeding plants, increased insect activity and the growing use of the site by birds, bees, butterflies and ladybirds have all contributed to results beyond those originally envisaged.

Community Benefit

The benefits of the project extend well beyond biodiversity.

The planting and habitat areas form part of the everyday environment experienced by the children, families, community groups, staff, volunteers, neighbours and visitors who use or pass the centre. Throughout the year, people are able to observe seasonal changes, flowering plants, pollinating insects and visiting birds within a highly visible and accessible part of the site.

For many children attending activities at the centre, these areas provide regular opportunities to experience nature and wildlife in an informal and engaging way. The project has helped create a more attractive, welcoming and environmentally aware setting, enhancing the overall experience of those using the centre.

The benefits also extend into the wider community. The frontage planting and wildlife-friendly areas contribute positively to the local street scene and are regularly enjoyed by residents and passers-by. As the planting has matured, it has become an established and valued feature of the neighbourhood.

Looking Ahead

This project demonstrates how a relatively modest investment can deliver long-term environmental and community benefits. What began as a biodiversity improvement initiative has become an important part of the centre's wider environment, creating a space that supports wildlife while enhancing the experience of people who use the site every day.

We would therefore like to place on record our sincere thanks to Bexhill Town Council for its support. The funding provided has delivered lasting environmental improvements and continues to generate benefits for both wildlife and the local community.

We hope the Council can take pride in what has been achieved and will look favourably upon future applications as we continue to develop and improve the centre for the benefit of the community and the natural environment alike.

Thank you for helping make this possible.

The Trustees

Bexhill Youth & Community Association

Paul White - Centre Manager

Bexhill Youth & Community Centre