

Biodiversity net gain. Good practice principles for development

Case studies

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18 Creating new green space at Kidbrooke Village

Details

Organisation Berkeley Group
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18.1 PROJECT SUMMARY

The Kidbrooke Village development involves the regeneration of what was the Ferrier Estate in south-east London into a vibrant new village community with 35 hectares of green parkland as the centrepiece.

The development is a long-term regeneration project that began in 2009 and has delivered 1450 homes to date. Re-connecting people to the wildlife on their doorstep is an important part of the regeneration of an area. To connect local residents with the wildlife on their doorstep, Berkeley partnered with the London Wildlife Trust to deliver a programme of free community events called 'Wild about Kidbrooke Village'. This is part of a wider project looking for opportunities to enhance the ecological value of the green spaces within the Kidbrooke Village development and encourage the local community to become an active stakeholder in their long-term use and management. Activities included craft events, nature talks, pond dipping, mini beast hunts, mammal surveys and a trip to Woodbury Wetlands in North London, as well as workshops at local schools. Working with the Trust and on consulting with The Royal Borough of Greenwich's BAP, a plan to provide green space that engaged the local community and increase biodiversity and sustainability was formulated.

18.2 ISSUES

A resident survey by the Trust suggested that people mostly walked through the Parks but did not normally spend time in them. Feedback has shown that Kidbrooke Village residents highly value their greenspace (45 per cent say that nature and wildlife is what they value most about living there), and the events help residents better understand the value of the biodiversity around them. The main lesson learnt was that organising the events during the autumn and winter months significantly limited the type of activities that could be undertaken and variety of wildlife that could be seen. Berkeley's intention is to continue the community engagement with further activities during the warmer months.

18.3 OUTCOMES

Various ecological features have been included in the development to date, including an extensive parkland area with integrated lakes, swales and planting, as well as brown roofs on the buildings. It was decided that the park would be an ideal location to consider increasing the biodiversity of the site. The Royal Borough of Greenwich's BAP was consulted to see what could be done and Berkeley collaborated with the Trust to obtain specialist advice. The Black Poplar was listed in the BAP as a species that the council was working hard to reintroduce into the area to battle a growing decrease in numbers. Being Britain's rarest native timber tree with over 100 specialist insects associated with it including moths, bees and butterflies, the team felt this would be great to incorporate into the new park. Typically, they flourish alongside streams and rivers so it was decided to plant the trees near the swale, which is part of the wider SuDs design across the development. Berkeley, the Trust and pupils from a local primary school teamed up to plant a new avenue of these trees.