

Live Here Love Here Small Grant Scheme 2016

Case Studies of successful Live Here Love Here Small Grant Scheme Projects



Reclaiming the River and the Riverbanks

The Reclaiming the River and the Riverbanks project was funded by Live Here Love Here and has been a great success. This project has allowed the community to recruit the services of a professional tree removal company to tackle a severely overgrown area of the riverbanks. When the area was cleared the group replanted the section that was previously invaded by Japanese Knotweed.

This project will continue to add to the excellent civic pride in the village and will assist with future Ulster in Bloom competitions.

Problems with lifting debris and litter were successfully tackled and the restricted river flow has been effectively improved. The community spirit is at an all-time high and chances in Ulster in Bloom should be increased.



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Spring Bulb Bonanza - Ballycraigy Style!

Ballycraigy Primary School received funding from Live Here Love Here to work outside the school grounds to plant around a mural that they were involved in creating.

The school is known for having a great garden that the children are very proud of and this allows the garden to spill out into the community. The work was carried out by the pupils, local councillors, Men's Shed and community volunteers.

The pupils asked folks from a local building site to dig the trenches with a small digger to make it easier for them to plant, and they chanted 'Shoots up and roots down!' as they planted.

The success will be in spring, when they see the fruits of their labour and the bulbs are blooming. Plans are afoot to put a garden seat there, for older members of the community. The venture under the new mural, will be an advert to highlight the outdoor activities which the school is known for.



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1st Kircubbin Scout Group Shoreline Challenge

The members of the 1st Kircubbin Scout Group applied to Live Here Love Here for funding to enable them to purchase equipment to help them carry out their clean up campaign of local beaches.

The young people will direct this project and say 'where they will clean next?' the group know that litter is an issue that faces all the coastal communities in the area and they will visit local beaches and tackle the litter.



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Work, Sit, Speak & Play

The aim of Whitehill Community Association's project was to turn a boring area of grassland into a lovely inviting open picnic space, for all the community to enjoy and get involved in by planting flowers in planters.

They were awarded funding through the Live Here Love Here Small Grants Scheme to transform the area of unused green space, during the process of construction a bin was added to the picnic area to keep the patch clean and tidy, which will be emptied by the association. They have also become an Adopt A Spot group and will hold regular clean ups of the area.

The group are grateful to Live Here Love Here for this fantastic opportunity to produce something all the community can be proud of.

Whitehill Community Association has called on members of the community to help add colour to the area by planting flowers.



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Bí Bláthach

The aim of this project was to increase the amount of pollinator friendly flowers in the West Belfast area, by planting in local residents' and businesses' gardens. The project will support the group's overall aim to produce honey from West Belfast, whilst improving local gardens and building relationships amongst residents, businesses and school children.

The project received funding through Live Here Love Here and has delivered a great amount of community work. The group have received a lot of positive feedback from the local secondary school Coláiste Feirste and the community group Glór na Móna and local residents in general.

The group have completed a lot of planting with the development of a wildflower garden, during the spring and summer they will be able to see the fruits of their labour and engage in more environmental activism.



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The Larder Garden Project

Live Here Love Here funded the Larder Garden Project which provides access to year round gardening activities for the local community, where fresh fruit and vegetables are supplied to the food bank. Waste food from the food bank is composted in the wormery and returned to the garden.

The group have installed a polytunnel which is now filled with seedlings and plants for the new growing season. The valuable support that Live Here Love Here provided is making a tangible difference in the local community.



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Grahamsbridge Working Garden

The tenants and the community have worked together to create a 'working garden'. The garden was constructed using all recycled materials such as laminated floor boards, and door frames. This project has helped to combating isolation and monotony of sheltered living.

The garden borders on to school and the residents would like to include them in future gardening tasks. The funding through Live Here Love Here allowed the group to purchase equipment such as wheelbarrow, shovel and also a shed; these have provided benefits to tenants by offering them an outdoor fun activity via the communal garden.

Many other people outside the scheme also come to volunteer their time, offering them the chance to share skills, reduce loneliness and socialise more. Volunteers are very keen to expand and do more and it is hoped that next summer will be highly successful with and will grow the project further still.



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Pond Park Primary School

Live Here Love Here funded the project to install a Polytunnel with raised beds and potting tables in the school grounds for joint use by the school community and neighbouring Finch Community Group.

One of the key aims was to develop relationships and we have already made progress with the school Principal offering to work together with Finch Community in other ways, offering the use of school facilities.

The school intends to seek further funding for a facilitator to run sessions with the local community and school gardening club, to teach growing skills.

Ultimately they would like to see joint pride and care for the green spaces in their local area.



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Roadside Enhancement

Through Live Here Love Here the group obtained funding to clean up and enhance an overgrown road verge.

This wide space on a corner has been neglected for many years, the group is working to drain the area and plant it with spring bulbs and wildflowers to generate a floral display that will enhance this previously neglected space.



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Mid waterside Transforming Alleyways

Success in the Live Here Love Here Small Grants Scheme spurred the newly constituted Mid Waterside Residents Association into direct action, bringing the community together in an alleyway tidy up campaign, targeting weeds, rubbish, dog foul, broken glass and overgrown plants.

This funding benefited all of the community. Residents and neighbours invited all local homeowners, tenants, landlords and local business that have access to and use of the alleyways to be a part of the group, to come out, clean up and support each other as a community that takes pride in their area.

As well as people taking pride in their area, the action brought people of all ages, nationalities, religions and political persuasions together. Some residents were meeting their neighbours for the first time and creating new friendships.

Regular meetings and liaisons with council has resulted in a good working relationship, to date two new dog bins have been installed with the promise of increased signage targeting littering and dog fouling.



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Mucky Paws

Live Here Love Here awarded funding Mucky Paws. This project was designed to work with school children from the local area to create and develop their own allotment in the newly re-developed Brooke Park with schools in the local area taking an allotment each.

The school have responsibility for the development and up-keep of their own allotment. Tools and other materials needed to maintain and develop the allotments were provided by the project.

The Mucky Paws Project has given the children a sense of ownership and pride for their local park and a role in its up-keep while teaching them important skills around gardening and their environment.



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Accessibility to Sustainability

The grant award by Live Here Love Here has been of huge value to Camowen Community Anglers and their environmental work due to the safe access it provides for all those groups interested in their environmental work and in accessing the countryside. The areas designated for the stiling project are key areas on the waterways and will be widely used for River Clean-up Projects.

The local scouts have come on board to assist with clean-ups and the safe access has benefitted the group and allows them to take members on work days.

Recently the club has been able to take some youth to key sites to observe migrating salmon returning to local spawning beds. Here they had the rare opportunity to watch the female fish clear their redds, (the clearings in the gravel beds to lay their eggs) and take videos of the fish at work. Given the favourable weather and water conditions the youth had a great opportunity to see the completion of the salmon journey, returning from the Atlantic Ocean to spawn at the exact location where they were hatched five years previously before going on their Atlantic journey.

Moreover our local farmers, Camowen Farmers Group are delighted with the quality of our stiles and the protection it offers to their fences, to the extent that the club have been asked to look at continuing and extending the project to other areas.



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Edible Picnic Area at An Creagán

The aim of this project was to train volunteers in traditional methods, while clearing and planting out two meadows.

The funding provided by Live Here Love Here enabled Devenish Partnership Forum in their quest to obtain official Nature reserve status.

It helped them gain invaluable insight into our two meadows one of which we cleared and planted with yellow rattle. This increased the understanding of volunteers in traditional methods of maintaining the reserve and allotments.

The grant bridged a gap between generations such as displaying traditional methods of cutting meadows (by sythe).

The allotments benefited greatly through this grant and a steady number of people are starting to increase our footfall.



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Daffodil Lane

Funding provided by Live Here Love Here has revitalised Daffodil Lane by the planting of daffodil bulbs and other wild flowers along the bank and the length of the lane.

Two event days were held: the first to clear the banks and the second to organise the planting.

Gardening staff from Mid and East Antrim Borough Council helped with the ground work. A digger had to be used with multi-purpose compost to enrich the soil.

The group will take responsibility for maintaining the area by planting, weeding, monitoring the environmental needs and taking steps necessary to maintain and improve the lane.



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Friends of the East

Through funding provided by Live Here Love Here the project supported the initiation of 'Friends of Groups' in Ecos Nature Park and Larne Town Park, the project attracted additional funding from Mid and East Antrim Borough Council to start a third group in Carnfunnock Country Park.

Practical work sessions attracted up to 14 volunteers at the Ecos Centre where volunteers helped to manage the hazel coppice and willow plantation, and create a community orchard.

At Larne Town Park volunteers worked together to landscape the edge of the stream and manage the water course by removing rubbish and natural build up.

Carnfunnock volunteers concentrated on the removal of invasive species and helped manage the hazel coppice. The project was a great success and was well supported by Mid and East Antrim Borough Council.



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Ardglass Community Beacon

Over 10 days 15 volunteers cleared half an acre of overgrown land, planted 4 trees and raised beds were created.

Through the creation of this space a new park has been created for the people of Ardglass.

It has enhanced the entrance to the village by addressing the dereliction. It is now the new home for the Christmas tree.

The project has reached out to various members of the community and helped them to engage with the project. They have been able to donate their time and various plants and this has instilled a sense of ownership and pride in the Ardglass Community Beacon.



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Keeping Mayobridge Tidy – Phase 2

The Live Here Love Here funded a successful initiative which generated a very high level of enthusiasm, commitment and outcome well beyond the groups initial expectations.

Volunteers removed the perimeter fence which separated the school and community facilities.

The group felled a huge tree which was fully recycled, the logs were used to mark out the play/growing areas and to upgrade the mini-beast zone. The leaf and twig litter was then shredded and parents and children used this when forming new bedding areas.

Two new beds were constructed and filled with topsoil from the banks which were dug out to facilitate the shed's relocation.

There was a clear focus throughout the scheme on reusing and recycling. The children and community were involved via consultation and contributing to the physical work involved.

Furthermore, when completed the garden will be open for After Schools and Playgroup use, also family use evenings/weekends.



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Nectar Bed Queens Park Saintfield

Live Here Love Here provided funding to create a calm sheltered haven for bumblebees and other wildlife in Queens Park, Saintfield.

This project is due for completion in late May and will involve 30 volunteers from group members, local primary school staff and children, volunteers from youth clubs and local communities groups.

The project has generated a lot of interest and support from NIHE, who will provide all the hard landscaping, a seat, two planters and a pergola, along with preparing and soiling the site.

This has allowed the group to buy a much larger, more mature tree, suitable for birds, to also pay for climbing roses and clematis for the pergola and sensory plants for the planters in the seating area. These will also attract bees and butterflies, as will all the plants chosen.



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Men's Shed Outdoor Classroom

Funding was provided by Live Here Love Here to rejuvenate a 900sq metres site of redundant waste ground.

The funding allowed the group to clear the ground with a digger and secure the space.

Having completed this piece of work they now have plans to use the space for Men's Shed activities such as archery, bowling, raised beds and football.

The funding also enabled them to create an outdoor classroom.

The group are looking forward to using the classroom for horticulture training and projects with members and community groups.

They have already seen an increase in interest in gardening by the members due to the fact that they now have a sheltered area.



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Combating Litter in Your Community

Live Here Love Here has recruited a band of forward thinking community groups and volunteers who will introduce some innovative methods to combat litter and dog fouling in their communities.

Groups are introducing brightly coloured footprints to bins to guide the public to do the right thing; posters with eyes on them that glow in the dark to deter dog fouling and specially designed bins that allows users to 'vote with their butt' by using cigarette butts.



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Posters

Designed using solid principles of behavioural science, posters like this reduced dog fouling in their surrounding area by almost 50% during a pilot study at 140 locations.

These posters even glow in the dark!



#2minutebeachclean Board

Got 2 minutes? Want to make a difference? Of course you do. Just two minutes spent picking up the litter you might see is time well spent. It makes the beach look better and every piece of litter that you remove from the environment is no longer a danger to the animals that live there.

The idea of the beach clean station was conceived in 2014 as a way of making it easier for everyone to do their bit. There are currently over 200 beach clean boards across the UK and Ireland.

The boards are A-boards with a holder for litter pickers and a windproof slot for used plastic bags. They are self supporting and messages can be personalised.



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Thank You

These projects have been made possible by the continued support of the Live Here Love Here partners. Without the financial assistance provided none of these innovative, environmental and community focused projects would have been possible; the projects will not only benefit the communities today but will continue to do so for many years to come.

Thank you to all our partners for your support



Thank you to all our partners for your continued support. Not already a partner but want to support Live Here Love Here? Please contact: enquiries@livehereandlovehere.org