REALLY WILD LOCKEAZE

Our First Three Years



Lockleaze Neighbourhood Trust

Avon Wildlife Trust

COMMUNITY FUND

Community Climate Action

Community Climate & Nature Action

CONTENTS:

3 INTRODUCTION

5 SETTING UP THE PROJECT

- Aims and Approaches, Seasonal Plan

14 CREATING NATURE HABITAT

- Working on public land including housing greens, with partners and in gardens
- Case studies

22 MONITORING, EVALUATION AND IMPACT

- Impact for wildlife, individual participants and our community

29 WHAT WE HAVE LEARNT

- Successes, challenges and opportunities

36 CONCLUSIONS AND WHERE NEXT?

INTRODUCTION

Really Wild Lockleaze is an inspirational community-led urban nature recovery project in North Bristol, led by Lockleaze Neighbourhood Trust (LNT). We are a small charity supporting our community to create positive change. In three short years, we have demonstrated the value of bringing nature recovery and community development work together, and the enormous benefits for wildlife, people and communities. This report summarises the achievements of this first stage of Really Wild Lockleaze, and lays out where we hope to go next.

About Lockleaze

Lockleaze is an area of North Bristol that was built as a garden council estate in the 1950s and 60s. In the ensuing decades, it began to experience challenges around housing, health and hardship, and some parts of our ward are now in the highest 10% in the country for deprivation. However, the people of Lockleaze are proud of where we live, and as the fourth most diverse ward in Bristol, we have a strong sense of community.



Photo Wilbee Films

About Lockleaze Neighbourhood Trust

Lockleaze Neighbourhood Trust has been the anchor organisation for Lockleaze in North Bristol for nearly 30 years. We are a well-known and respected resident-led hub with a core goal of supporting residents to create the change they believe in. We foster connection and wellbeing, and look after community buildings, while addressing local issues such as housing, health, and social cohesion.

LNT's interest in and nature recovery dates back to 2018, when we did extensive community engagement to create the Our Lockleaze Community Plan. Through this, 700+ Lockleaze residents told us that one of the things they most valued locally was our green space.



Lockleaze is blessed with more green space than anywhere else in the city, lying alongside Stoke Park's 270 acre estate, but also has 66 acres housing greens, grass verges as well as large private gardens. This may be one of the reasons residents also show an exceptional willingness to take action for nature: Lockleaze came top of all Bristol Wards for the percentage of residents who created space for nature in the 2023/24 Bristol Quality of Life Survey.

Community Climate Action Project

In 2020, Lockleaze Neighbourhood Trust were invited to be part of the ground-breaking Community Climate & Nature Action (CCNA) project coordinated by Bristol Climate and Nature Partnership and supported by the National Lottery Climate Action Fund. With lots of local involvement, we produced the Lockleaze Community Climate Action Plan in 2022 and refreshed it in 2024.



It set out ways for our community to act on seven strands of climate action including transport, food, housing, nature, energy, waste and consumption, business and education. Again residents voiced a love of local nature and a concern over the detrimental effects of new housing developments in the ward (23 developments with 1000+ new homes).

So, when we were asked to develop a demonstrator project as part of our Community Climate & Nature Action Project, we responded to these concerns by developing the Really Wild Lockleaze (RWL) project which tests new approaches to nature recovery in urban housing estates.

The Importance of Urban Nature Recovery



Nature is in decline globally, threatening our health, prosperity, and security. In the west of England, numbers of once common songbirds like swifts and starlings have dropped by more than 96%. 23 species of wasp and bees have become extinct since 1850, and 41% of insects are threatened with extinction.

In 2018, Bristol City Council were the first local authority in the UK to declare an ecological emergency, setting out the scale of the problem, developing a strategic response, and inviting collaboration from public, private, community and not for profit sectors. Projects like Really Wild Lockleaze are key demonstrators of how this can be tackled together.

People often think cities are less valuable for wildlife than the rural landscape. However, people's gardens, allotments, parks, school grounds, and roadside greenspaces form a network of connected habitats that can be much more biodiverse than intensive dairy farms or fields of sprayed barley.

Cities also house most of our human population, who need access to nature for their wellbeing, as well as for essential needs like clean air, shade, and flood prevention. If people don't see nature, they won't learn and care about it, and turning around the ecological crisis will not be possible.



SETTING UP THE PROJECT

Setting up the project took about nine months. This included recruiting a project coordinator, engaging with residents, developing a theory of change, and establishing relationships with key partners, like Bristol City Council (BCC) and Avon Wildlife Trust (AWT).

OUR AIMS

We wanted the project to prioritise ecological improvement in the context of Bristol City Councils' Ecological Emergency declaration, but also understood that thriving green space is essential to community and individual wellbeing. The wellbeing benefits of nature, food growing, and connecting with neighbours are well documented, and our community analysis had shown that mental health and isolation are key concerns in Lockleaze. Therefore we aimed that the project:

1. Demonstrate what communities can do for nature in their gardens and on their streets.
2. Pilot models that could be rolled out across Bristol and beyond to achieve nature recovery targets.
3. Provide good practice guides and process maps for other communities to do similar work.
4. Provide activities where residents can connect with their neighbours and make a difference.
5. Support resident wellbeing and community connection.

As part of Bristol Climate & Nature Partnership's Community Climate & Nature Action Project (CCNA), our project sat under their wider aims:

1. Communities will better contribute to the West of England's 2030 carbon neutral and nature recovery ambitions
2. There is a wider & deeper climate & nature engagement & leadership in diverse communities
3. Community climate & nature action will support the transition towards a more just & inclusive society.
4. Community climate & nature action will support increased resilience to climate & social challenges
5. Communities in Bristol and beyond are inspired and supported to take community-led climate & nature action
6. Community climate and nature action is recognised as an essential strategic approach towards achieving net zero & nature recovery goals in Bristol & beyond

STAFF, STEERING GROUP AND NEW ROLES:

Core Staff:



The team consisted of a **Project Coordinator** at 26 hours a week, **Community Ecologist in residence** (through Avon Wildlife Trust) at 2 days a week and in the final year only a **Communications Coordinator** at 18 hours a week, with 10 hours a week comms support from LNT prior to this. The project was overseen by LNT's CEOs.

Between them, the team has experience in climate & community activism, community development, organic growing, arts, ecology, and practical conservation.

Steering Group:



A group of local residents, and colleagues from relevant partner organisations volunteered to sit on a steering group that sat quarterly to give locally and expertly informed guidance for the project. These included local wildlife experts and community activists, representatives from local schools, churches and youth providers, representatives from relevant Bristol City Council departments including parks team and park ranger, a local councillor and representatives from leadership at AWT and LNT. Many of them were also local residents.

Working with an Avon Wildlife Trust Community Ecologist in residence

In collaboration with Avon Wildlife Trust (AWT), the role of Community Ecologist in Residence was co-created, to be employed by Avon Wildlife Trust, but to be embedded in Lockleaze Neighbourhood Trust, working on the Really Wild Lockleaze project, and in another local organisation on their CCNA project.

Connecting people to the magic of nature, and encouraging them to take action is turbo-charged when it is done by someone with passion for nature. As well as facilitating good health and safety practices, the community ecologist would ensure good practice in ecological terms, and that everyone felt included, and engaged.



The ecologist in action at a Bioblitz event

Avon Wildlife Trust (AWT) is the largest local charity working to protect wildlife in the West of England area.

This collaboration with AWT, as well as a community ecologist, brought the invaluable skills, and experience of their wider team, and access to bespoke equipment.

OUR APPROACHES:

Always Community-Led

Being led by the community is the best way to work in communities. Our overall aims came from existing plans, and, once in action, we prioritised work where the ideas came from the residents.

This includes the eight greens where plans for nature were made by the community, two streets where residents adopted their verges, and Lockleaze Sports Centre, whose marginal land was highlighted to us by a local resident.

Our work was also guided by our steering group with several local residents on it, and by the thousands of conversations we had with community members at all stages of the project.



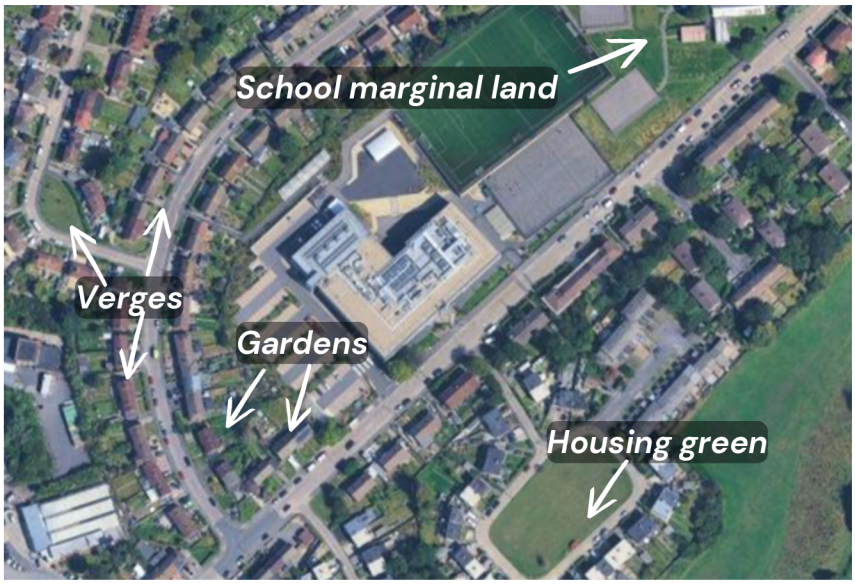
A community planning meeting, held outside to attract neighbours and other green users.

Action Learning

A community organisation doing nature recovery work at an urban community level is new, so we took an action learning approach - trying a variety of approaches, finding a pathway, and reflecting and learning for next time. For example, we tried a variety of ways of making meadow, and worked on as many different types of council land as possible.

Urban Nature Reserve Model

Lockleaze has gardens, verges, housing greens, school grounds, and more. Wildlife does not distinguish between these spaces, and neither should we. Every patch of land is an opportunity for a bee to feed, or a hedgehog to hide. We saw three major types of land which gave opportunities for creating wildlife habitat:



1. Green spaces on streets (eg verges, housing greens)
2. Marginal land belonging to partners (eg schools)
3. Residents' and partners' gardens

SEASONALITY

Creating and managing wildlife habitat is seasonal work, so this dictated our timings. This diagram shows a simplified yearly plan of what we did.

January

- Bulb planting
- Tree planting
- Pond making
- Putting up bird boxes
- Pruning apple and pear trees
- Wassail/ Network Meeting
- New Year Plant Hunt
- RSPB Big Birdwatch

February

- Greenspaces: Find streets, residents and champions
- Tree planting
- Pond making
- Apple tree grafting
- Putting up bird boxes
- Pruning apple and pear trees

March

- Tree planting
- Meadow making
- Apple tree grafting
- 20th: World Rewilding Day
- Bumblebee transect

April

- Meadow making
- Yellow rattle plug planting
- 22nd: Earth Day
- Nature Network Meeting
- City Nature Challenge (last weekend)
- Bumblebee transect

May

- Greenspaces: Hold community planning meetings
- No Mow May
- Hedgehog Awareness & National Hedgerow Week (1st week)
- Plant surveying
- Bumblebee transect

June

- Greenspaces: Consult the community plans with all community members
- Lockleaze Climate & Nature Festival
- Plant surveying
- Bumblebee transect

July

- Greenspaces: Consult the community plans with all community members
- Wildflower seed collection
- Pruning plum and cherry trees
- Butterfly, Bat and Nature Walks
- Nature Network Meeting
- Plant surveying
- Bumblebee transect

August

- Greenspaces: Obtain and wait for council permissions
- Meadow making
- Scything

September

- Plug plant sowing and planting
- World Rivers Day (4th Sun)

October

- Greenspaces: Obtain and wait for council permissions
- Bulb planting
- Meadow making
- Plug plant sowing and planting
- 21st: Apple Day
- Nature Network Meeting
- Bumblebee transect

November

- Tree planting
- Putting up bird boxes
- Pruning apple and pear trees
- National Tree Week (from last Sat in Nov)

December

ESTABLISHING RELATIONSHIPS WITH LAND PARTNERS:

While we worked on the small areas of land managed by LNT and in private gardens, we needed to work on much more land to make a significant impact for nature.



Local organisations

Local organisations including churches, schools, and sports grounds hold significant land within Lockleaze, and most were already enthusiastic about improving biodiversity.

Lockleaze Neighbourhood Trust has existing partnerships with many local organisations. We did small projects with several organisations, and significant work at Lockleaze Sports Centre.

Left: creating a meadow on local church grounds.

Bristol City Council (BCC)

Bristol City Council own almost all of the public realm greenspace in Lockleaze so became our major land partner. However, the land is owned by different departments within the council (mostly Parks, Housing & Highways). Each needed its own method of approach.

Via the CCNA project, we were lucky to have the support of two people working in the council; a project manager in BCC's climate change team who shaped the CCNA project from its inception and, a community development worker in the Parks team who saw the potential of our project and requested time to work with us. These people were key to navigating permissions from within the council, including actually managing that process with the Highways Team.



Land owned by BCC is in blue.
Image courtesy of Bristol City Council

We sought meetings with relevant people from all the land owning council departments at the start to explain the project to them, and to establish ways of working. This was met with mixed success, as it can be opaque as to who to talk to in the council, and teams are often over stretched and reluctant to take on more work.

Our friendly BCC Parks department community development officer ended up managing our contact with Highways. This worked well for the scope of the project, but may provide a limit to it going further. The housing teams were immediately accessible via their housing officers, but they changed roles several times, and different managers engaged differently making communication slow at times.

ENGAGING RESIDENTS:

Creating Social Connections

A big part of people's motivation to volunteer with a project like ours is to meet like minded people, and make connections. We deliberately built this into our work, whether it was creating regular social events (Lockleaze Nature Network), or by prioritising a social atmosphere at all our events, with cups of tea and biscuits, and a welcome smile.

The success of our habitat creation on streets also relies on communities forming around the work, so we set up whatsapp groups for each street, and held workshops ("Design & Do" sessions) in our street champion's gardens, inviting only their neighbours to come along.

"They were so friendly and helpful and brought drinks and snacks too to make it feel like a really lovely event." participant



A Nature Network gathering at Lockleaze Community Orchard

Working at Residents' Convenience

By primarily working on residents' streets, and as much as possible out of normal work hours, we made it easy for residents to take part.



Community Food Growing

Buzz is a small community garden in the heart of Lockleaze, that had ceased operating. LNT took over the garden, and used RWL funds to support some of its bi-weekly sessions for residents to learn about growing food through permaculture principles. Supporting community food growing supports wildlife through reducing habitat loss and pesticide use, creating habitat, encouraging organic practices, and supporting pollinators.

Focussing on Species

Our steering group's advice was to focus our work around particular charismatic species, to help residents form an emotional connection to our work, as well as to enable clearer story telling, simplicity of focus, and ease of measurement. This affected how we communicated about our streets work, but also meant we started overtly supporting particular butterflies - eg creating the Small Blue Butterfly corridor on Hogarth walk.



Supporting local people to become champions for wildlife

By finding key people across Lockleaze who wanted to champion nature, and supporting them to step up and take action, we are growing our communities capacity for taking action for nature, and likelihood their neighbours would get involved.

On each street that we worked on, a resident acted as our champion, doing extra work to invite their neighbours to come to get involved. We helped them grow as nature champions, for example, by inviting them to speak on camera, signposting them to relevant courses, and by running the "Design & Do" sessions in their gardens. Three of them also became Avon Wildlife Trust's Wildlife Champions, capitalising on AWT's support and training for our community.





We also brought together residents who were passionate about the health of Horfield Brook, supporting them to create a campaign group, and giving them opportunities to promote what they are doing.

Left: Let the Brook Breathe' stand at Nature Festival

Using creativity

Creativity was specifically included in the wider CCNA project because of its power to create change. Taking action to avert the ecological crisis deals with big issues, which can have big feelings attached, including overwhelm, and grief. Art can tap into powerful positive feelings—e.g. awe and hope— and these can make people more likely to act. Art and creativity can speak across cultures, draw attention, and simplify messages.



We commissioned local artists, Syliva Rimat and Charli Clark, to co-create an audio trail with three sculptural benches. It aimed to connect residents to nature, and gain a deeper understanding of RWL's work.

Students from Trinity Academy, inspired by the butterflies RWL is supporting, designed patterns to be engraved on the benches. The bench holds a QR code, which links to the voices of young people (students from Stoke Park Primary, and the Vench) and our community members talking about their feelings and memories about local wildlife.







Communications Channels

As well as community engagement, we used communications channels to spread the word as widely as possible. We shared blogs, social media, email newsletters, and posters, and later in the project commissioned films, created WhatsApp groups and appeared on podcasts and in news media.

To give the project its own identity, a separate Facebook account and newsletter was created for Really Wild Lockleaze. We used these to share our events, as well as news from the project, gardening tips, links to resources, opportunities, campaigns, and nature events in the area and across Bristol.

We also shared events via posters and leaflets, recognising that not all of our community are online. Where capacity allowed, we put flyers for hyper-local events through neighbours doors, to ensure the local community were informed and invited.

Creating a pathway of engagement

We provided ways to get involved with the project for people who were merely curious or starting to think about nature, as well as for people who were already passionate, and ready to get stuck in.

For example, residents new to nature could attend an informal wildlife walk or volunteer at Buzz Community Garden , then get more involved creating meadows on a street with us. If they wanted to take it further, they could become a Citizen Scientist with our monthly bumble bee walks.

Easy points of entry

- **20** Stalls at local events, engaging 621 people
- **2617** Conversations about wildlife with residents
- **2** Community nature festivals

Opportunities to learn

- **Biweekly** Community Garden Sessions
- **40** Walks and learning events

Opportunities to take action

- **58** Habitat creation events
- **5** Lockleaze nature network events for social networking
- **14** Nature friendy gardening how-to videos filmed in Lockleaze

Opportunities to contribute to science

- **20** Citizen Science Events

"I thought there was nothing here - just barren grass! But there's so much and it was so interesting, I will love to come and do it again!"



CREATING NATURE HABITAT

Public Realm Habitat Map

We created wildlife habitat on public land using several different models. Each pinpoint here represents a different site.

We worked across the whole of Lockleaze ward, responding to local interest. Some sites were chosen specifically to link habitat, following the urban nature reserve model- for example Hogarth Walk links the railway nature corridor, marginal land at Lockleaze Sports Centre, and Stoke Park.

- Housing greens with community plans
- Verges adopted by individual residents
- Land worked on by consultation
- Marginal land owned by partners
- Community food-growing project

WORK ON STREETS

Perhaps our most celebrated and impactful work was working on the housing greens and verges on peoples streets, bringing together communities to transform their spaces for wildlife and people.

Housing Greens

8 Community Plans Made **7** Greens Transformed **31** Habitat Creation Events

Lockleaze has 12 shared housing greens, with houses built around them. These are usually areas of mowed grass, with the odd tree. Kids might play there, but they are often underused, and the community did not feel much ownership over them, or gather there.

These areas were ideal for our work, as they were surrounded by people who were interested in the space, and were often large, with lots of opportunities for nature. We started by running events and having conversations to find key residents who were keen to support wildlife on their green. We then helped them get their neighbours together, and make a fully consulted on community plan to submit to the council, as below.



Linnell Close before work started, with bare mown grass.

Our Process for Creating a Community Plan for Nature on a Housing Green:

01 **Found a resident champion**

Someone who cares about nature and their community and can champion the project

02 **Door-knocked to get more people**

Invite local residents to a meeting to make a plan

03 **Held a community meeting**

Using guidelines, create a plan for nature habitat on the greenspace

04 **Door-dropped a consultation**

Put up notices and deliver the plans to everyone's doors to demonstrate majority support.

05 **Submitted to the council**

Housing/ highways (the owners)

One Tree Per Child

Parks

More details on this exact process, and our learning and recommendations around it can be found in our toolkit 'Wild Streets of Lockleaze'.

'Adopt your Verge' Model

12 Households Adopting Verges

3 Habitat Creation Events

Many small verges are directly outside one house, and it is not appropriate to make a community plan about them. For these, we created the "Adopt Your Verge" model. These verges are mostly owned by the BCC Highways department.They were happy for our residents to proceed on the following basis (developed with BCC):



When is a Verge not a Verge?

Lockleaze has many roadside verges as well as housing greens. These are incidental green areas along the roads, rather than the centre of a group of houses. However, we treated some wide verges (e.g. at Stanfield Close) the same as housing greens, as they are large enough that multiple households have an interest in them.

Case study: Stanfield Close

Type of green space:

Stanfield Close is a small cul-de-sac with a verge running down it, that opens onto a wider green space between the houses and the main road. It is owned by BCC Housing Department. It has several mature hawthorn and apple trees, mown grass, and an overgrown brambly area.

How RWL became involved:

Katherine had already worked with another organisation (Lockleaze Green Gym) to create a planter on the narrow part of the green space, and prevent people parking there. She wanted the green space to look cared for and respected, so that people wouldn't park and fly-tip.



We held a community planning event, after door-knocking with our greens champion inviting residents to come. We then consulted the community on their neighbours' plan via a door drop, and posters. Some neighbours needed to park on the upper bits of the verge outside their houses, so we decided to focus our work on the lower wider area.

What action did residents take?

They planted three fruit bushes, a small wildlife hedge in front of a wall, an apple and a plum tree, and bulbs under two trees. They also planted wildflower plug plants grown by them and other residents into a biodiverse lawn area, which was then allowed to grow long to create a wildflower meadow. We ran three habitat creation events, and a maintenance event scything the meadow.



"We are hoping to promote more wildlife to come to Lockleaze, and create a domino effect for other areas of Lockleaze to do the same. Hopefully this will help nature to blossom and grow. It's a good way to meet your neighbours and get to know people, which is a win-win as far as I am concerned!" Katherine, Stanfield Close champion

Case study: Hogarth walk

Hogarth walk has many small verges set within its pavements. It is also set closely between the railway and Stoke Park, so was an ideal place to create a valuable wildlife corridor.



The success of these verges relied on residents taking on the maintenance themself. They were responsible for watering, and mowing the front edge of the verge to keep it tidy and allow room for pedestrians on the narrow pavements. The residents did a great job, producing beautiful and well-loved displays.

My kids have very much enjoyed it, and they've kept going out to water them! We want ours to be as good as the ones over the road who planted them last year."

Using a target species:

The Small Blue butterfly is known to be not far away to the north, but is not in Stoke Park. We used this butterfly as a charismatic species to get residents to plant wildflowers. We included kidney vetch, its caterpillar foodplant, in the seed mix. The Small Blue has not yet been seen on the street, but we remain hopeful.

Working by consultation only - taking opportunities that our community approved of

Our steering group told us that as well as prioritising being community- led, we should take other opportunities to create benefits for wildlife, as long as our community approved.

4 Habitat Creation Events **86** Local Participants **203** Trees Planted

Two of our best attended habitat creation events resulted from this way of working (at Muller Road Rec and Gainsborough Square). These spaces are managed closely by the BCC Parks department, meaning the plans were devised between us and the council. However the fact they are used by so many community members meant lots of people were interested in volunteering to help. We did a full consultation on each one, so residents had a chance to feed in on the plans.



Gainsborough Square Meadow Sow



Muller Road Tree Planting



Blake Road Meadow

We also seized an opportunity to create meadow at Blake Road corner - this is a wide verge that is not directly outside anyone's house. It had been turned back to soil by heavy machinery using it as a parking area. We got permission from the BCC Highways to resow it with wildflowers, and consulted nearby houses. Notably, using this method, we only got a handful of people turning up to help us create and manage the meadow. However, it did act as an advertisement for our work, and was noticed and taken on by nearby residents who then asked us to help them to create meadow on their street greenspaces.

"I've always wanted to plant trees, but it's usually done in far away places. It's brilliant to be able to plant trees right on my doorstep!"

Working on partner's marginal land



In the urban nature reserve model, it is important to consider all types of land as potential wildlife habitat. We explored working with the edges of land owned by schools, and local churches. We ventured onto the edges of our local heritage parkland, Stoke Park, planting a 25m long hedgerow to shield noise from the motorway, with their regular Community Group. However, the opportunities at Lockleaze Sports Centre soon took our attention because of the large amount of marginal land there, and the willing partners to work with.

Case study: Lockleaze Sports Centre

A local resident Martin pointed out extensive marginal land around Lockleaze Sports Centre, which was either being mown or left to bramble.

The sports centre has multiple pitches surrounded by a large amount of marginal land including ditches, hedgerows and attenuation ponds, with great potential for wildlife. The centre also sits between a railway wildlife corridor and heritage parkland, giving it high potential to act as a nature corridor.

Lockleaze Sports Centre were happy to see their marginal land becoming a benefit for nature, as well as creating pleasant pathways which users could use for gentle physical activity.



Benefits of partnership working:

Enabling habitat creation in office hours

Unlike housing greens and verges, the sports centre land does not have a local community of residents planning their project. This meant we could do the outdoor work in office hours. We targeted corporate groups and student volunteers, as well as residents from Lockleaze and across Bristol, maximising our impact for nature. Partners we worked with included:

- **Lockleaze Green Gym** (part of The Conservation Volunteers), who already had a community wildlife garden there and were happy to partner with us on our ambitious habitat creation plans. We were able to pool our tools, and together support larger groups of volunteers to really transform the land (sometimes 30+ people).
- **The Bristol Bears Hitz Programme**, who were working with young people not in school.
- **Volunteers from big local employers** such as the Ministry Of Defence and Screwfix, who were using their volunteering days given them by their employers
- **The OCU Group** enabled us to resow and sow new areas of meadow after they were contracted by National Grid to lay cables under the site of our newly sown meadows.

Making a Plan

When making the plan with our partners, and local resident Martin, it was important to:

1. Talk through practical long term management of the areas we were going to create
2. Listen to what nearby residents/ local people wanted for the space
3. Work with the sports centre to meet their needs (e.g. green screening houses to curb visual pollution)
4. Check local environmental records and identify target species
5. Spot opportunities to connect habitat by creating a wildlife corridor.
6. Work with what's already there

Clearance Work

In the absence of large herds of herbivores that would historically have been present, most land in this country will naturally turn to bramble scrub. Although it has wildlife value, if left unchecked you get huge masses of brambles, with a dead zone underneath and not many other species.

We retained sizable bramble patches in strategic locations as they are an important source of nectar, food, and cover/nesting sites. People also love blackberries! However to achieve maximum biodiversity, we played the role of the large herbivore and repeatedly cut areas of the bramble to enable our newly planted trees to establish.

Habitat Creation and Results

The habitats flourished over the summer with many bees observed via our bee monitoring, and residents frequently observed starlings and house sparrows bathing in the pond at the sports centre, and feeding on the insects. Dragonflies and newts were also observed in abundance around the pond.

This work received recognition, when Craig Bennet, the head of The Wildlife Trusts, came out to visit us, as he was interested in the opportunities to scale this work up helping sports centres, businesses, hospitals etc across the country improve their marginal land for nature.

20 Work Days Held

4 Bumblebee nest sites
(lined with gerbil bedding to simulate rodent holes)

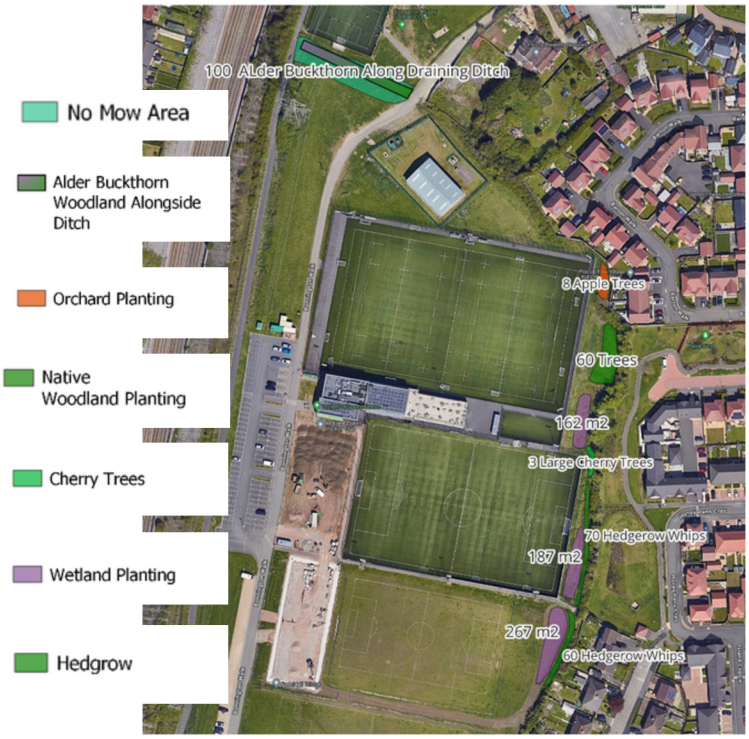
1 Pond
dug and planted

652m Wildflower meadow sown

616m² Wetland improved
with wildflower plug plants

475 Trees Planted
93m of hedgerow, 557m² of woodland, 76m² of orchard with alder buckthorn to feed the yellow brimstone butterfly





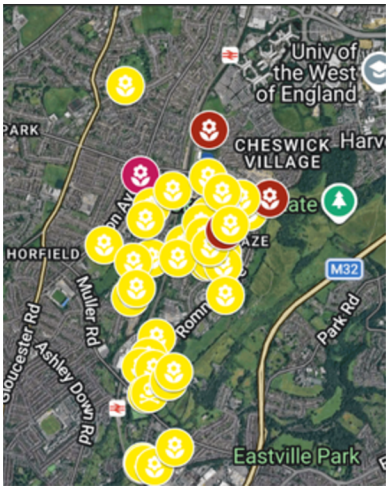
RESIDENTS TAKING ACTION IN THEIR GARDENS

Urban gardens account for, on average, 30% of land in urban areas, and play a crucial role in supporting urban wildlife by providing essential habitats and food sources. When filled with native and wildlife-friendly species, ponds, and hedgerows, and with permeable barriers between them, gardens become vital stepping stones connecting ecosystems across cities.

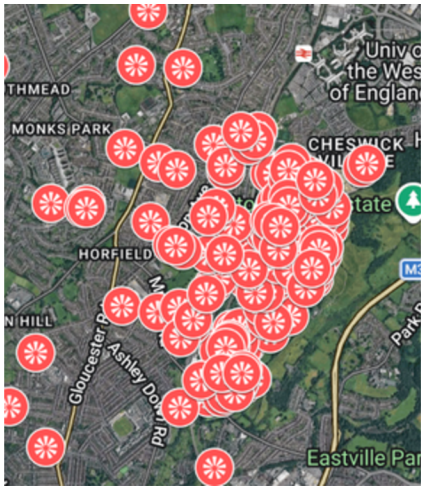
Promoting nature friendly gardening

We used social campaigns to encourage people to take action for wildlife in their gardens because we know they are effective. They can take advantage of social trends, and empower people to realise they can make a difference. We established the Lockleaze Wild Mile Map where each spot represents someone in our community who has signed up to nature friendly gardening practices, built a campaign around No Mow May, and encouraged tree and wildflower planting via free giveaways.

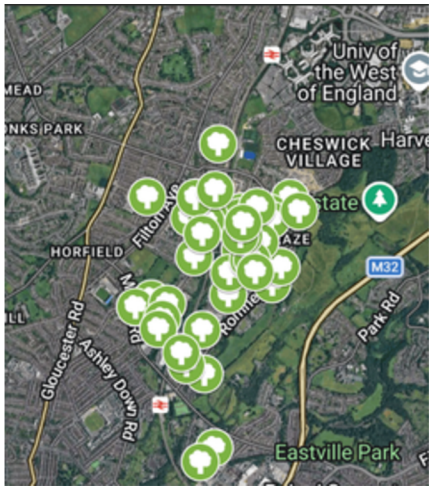
We were donated 250 native trees, which we were pleased to be able to pass on to 50 of our local residents to plant in their gardens. We also assembled packets of enough native wildflower seed for 1m2 with instructions, using the same mixes that we use to create meadows on the greens, and gave them to 236 residents.



Nature-Friendly Gardens



Wildflower Giveaway



Tree Giveaway

Residents taking learning home



We ran bespoke learning workshops on things like apple tree pruning, and grafting, some of which were taught by local people who have these skills. We also saw every habitat creation workshop as an opportunity for residents to learn how to plant a tree, sow a meadow, and use tools, and took time to train them properly as part of each event.

Creating Lockleaze-specific how-to videos

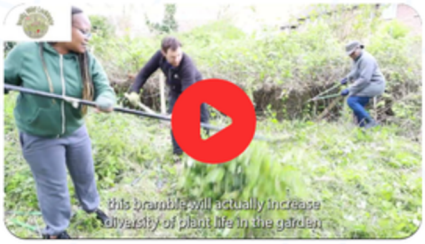
There is an enormous amount of information available to people about wildlife friendly gardening, so there was no point reinventing the wheel. We decided, however, that locally created how-to videos, made in Lockleaze gardens would be a good addition to these widely available materials. They would be able to address local issues, such as dealing with heavy clay soil, or horsetail growth, and show people a garden that looked like theirs.
Videos were made in the gardens of volunteers who invited their neighbours to help, creating direct impact for nature, building community and building skills.

DESIGN AND DO

These videos were made by Lockleaze resident Katie Down, featuring Lockleaze residents and presented by Community Ecologist Eric Swithinbank.



REVIVE A RUBBLY AREA FOR WILDLIFE



CREATE A HERB BED



CREATE A POND

Case study: No Mow May



No Mow May offers significant benefits for both wildlife and the environment. By letting lawns grow naturally for a month, wildflowers like daisies, clover, and dandelions can bloom, providing an early and vital food source for pollinators such as bees and butterflies. It also supports other insects, birds, and small mammals, creating a richer, more diverse habitat.
Reducing mowing also saves energy, cuts emissions, and encourages people to rethink their relationship with garden spaces—valuing them not just for neatness but for the life they support.
Our campaign led to lots of interesting conversations within the local community.

No Mow May is a well known Plantlife campaign, meaning some people are already familiar with the concept, and lots of great resources already exist. With the help of an excellent masters student intern, who planned a campaign involving flyers, door-knocking, and social media including videos, we had 124 people sign up to take part in No Mow May in 2024. This was a huge success- it was more than signed up with Plantlife across the whole of Bristol.



Window poster provided to participants

MONITORING, EVALUATION AND IMPACT

Monitoring Impact for our Community



We used event feedback forms and conversations throughout the project to reflect on our work. At the end of the project, we shared a detailed but accessible evaluation survey with all Lockleaze residents via social media, flyers, and doorknocking specifically for several greens where we had worked.

Monitoring Impact on Wildlife

Monitoring wildlife can be time-consuming and difficult to get people involved with, so to ensure we could assess the impact we were having on local wildlife, we chose to monitor a small number of species/ groups that would reflect the health of the ecosystem as a whole, choosing plants and bumble bees.

Plants are the bedrock of the ecosystem, providing food and shelter for insects which go on to feed birds and animals. Bumblebees serve as very good bioindicators - each species prefer different flowers, but they also require different types of undisturbed ground to nest in This means that their abundance is a solid indicator for the health of surrounding habitat.

We also wanted to ensure that our monitoring could feed into nationally and regionally accessible datasets, so chose existing monitoring techniques and always shared our data with the Bristol Region Environmental Records Centre.

Vegetation Surveys

To get a clear picture of our direct impact on floral biodiversity, we compared the same quadrats before and after taking action. This not only gave us a complete species list, but also allowed us to track changes in those species and assess species richness and biodiversity.

Bee Walks - Bumblebee Conservation Trust

In this scheme by the Bumblebee Conservation Trust, we walked the same route (capturing several of our key areas) every month, and recording all bees seen (with an emphasis on Bumblebees) recording species, caste, sex and what they're feeding on.



FIT counts - UK Pollinator Monitoring Scheme

FIT (Flower Insect Timed) counts are an accessible way to engage as they only take 10 minutes and identify insects by type rather than species.



BioBlitz - iNaturalist

We teamed up with the RSPB to run a BioBlitz at Lockleaze Sports Centre, identifying as many species as possible using iNaturalist. This was a fantastic, well attended day.

We worked in areas we've enhanced for wildlife, and identified anything that took our interest, from plants to birds and insects. This was a really accessible way to get people looking at nature, and provided a valuable snapshot of the species at our site.

IMPACT FOR WILDLIFE

New nature habitat in public spaces



Trees planted



Wildflower meadow sown



Hedgerow planted



Ponds created

New nature habitat in Lockleaze gardens



Trees planted in gardens



Households sowing plug plants from local seed



Households sowing wildflowers



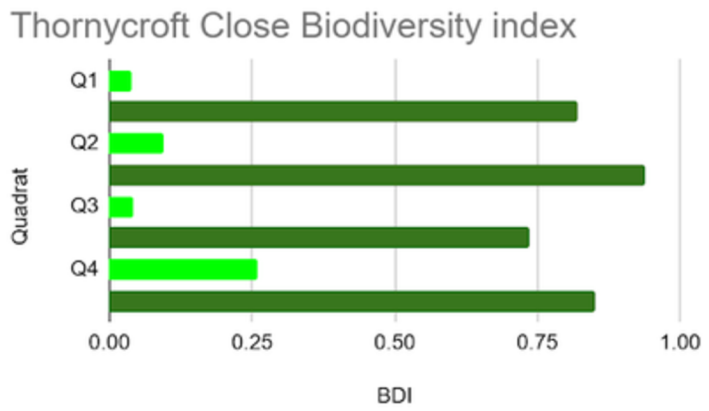
Meadow - sown or let grow

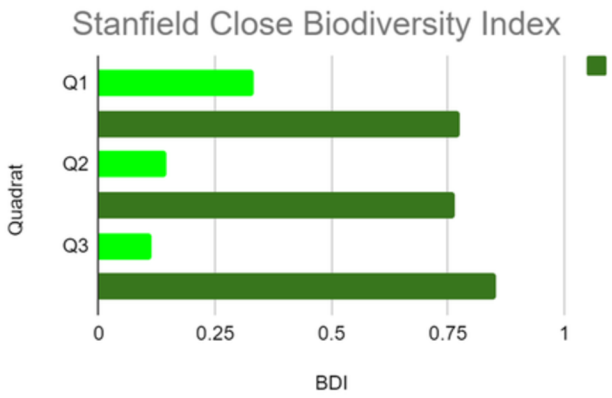


Ponds created in gardens

Uplift in biodiversity on our sites

Our surveys demonstrated a clear improvement in biodiversity and species richness on all sites, for plants and insects. This was reflected in the findings from all quadrats surveyed showing an average uplift in floral diversity of 486%. This correlates with the abundance of insect groups including bumblebees, honeybees, solitary bees, wasps, hoverflies, other flies, butterflies and moths, beetles, and other small insects that were observed during FIT counts. We observed many bumblebees on both the wildflowers sown on Hogarth walk and the wetland wildflowers planted at Lockleaze Sports Centre, with our peak walks recording up to 43 bumblebees in one hour, most within the sections where we had carried out the work.





Floral biodiversity increase demonstrated by the before surveys (light green) and after the meadows had been created (dark green). Thornycroft close was turf cut and sown with seed, whereas Stanfield close had plug plants added and was left to grow long.

Long term impact for nature across the community

There's also an abundance of anecdotal evidence of increasing wildlife, and some of our target species have been spotted. We found a Brimstone caterpillar feeding upon the alder buckthorn it relies on - which we specifically planted to help that butterfly. Residents surveyed told us they feel they are seeing more wildlife because of the project, with 46% saying they are seeing more bees, and bird species have been seen making the most of abundant insect life, especially in places like the pond we dug at Lockleaze Sports Centre.



"I have seen a big increase in insect life due to the amazing wildflower planting that has happened- new areas of wildflowers have attracted lots of new pollinators that were not seen before"

The positive impacts of the habitats created are amplified due to their location and spread across the whole neighbourhood. The pockets and spaces of undisturbed areas, meadows, longer grass, hedgerows, woodlands, wetlands and ponds that have been created provide stepping stones and a refuge for a whole array of wildlife. This provides strategic connectivity between people's gardens and on a wider landscape scale. In addition, this is long term work- much of the benefit will be seen in the years to come.

As well as benefits accrued over time when habitats like trees and hedgerows come into maturity, we hope that we will see increases in nature habitat being made in gardens into the future, as residents are inspired by and learning through our project.

Our project has raised the profile of the importance of nature and wildlife with residents, and has increased confidence within the community about creating space for wildlife in their gardens.

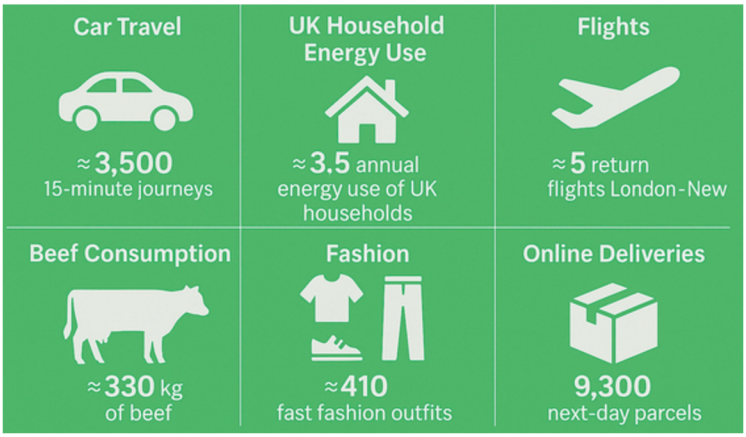


Two year old trees at Stanfield Close

Impact on the climate

Although our project primarily focused on supporting wildlife, we are proud of the impact this work has on taking carbon from our atmosphere through land use change.

Carbon Savings:



Other Impacts for Climate Action:

- Uncaptured resident action for nature in their gardens
- Development of community leadership and empowerment
- Climate action/commitment to net zero is included in all other areas of LNT's work.
- Our toolkits enabling community based nature recovery action across Bristol and beyond

IMPACT FOR PARTICIPANTS

Residents have told us that the project has benefited them in many ways - from learning key nature gardening skills to learning how to work as a team - from increasing their enjoyment of living in Lockleaze to giving them hope. A case study on two of our local residents, Huma & Noman, and how the project has benefitted them can be found on our website.

Action and connection

Taking part in Really Wild Lockleaze has built people's confidence to take action in their communities, and taught them the community and social skills they need. We also heard repeatedly that it increased people's enjoyment of their local area, as well as increasing contact with their neighbours. For those who have just moved in, it has helped them integrate and feel a sense of belonging. Creating empowered citizens with solid networks in their community creates the community resilience we need to face the challenges of climate change.



96% Say that the green space improvements make Lockleaze a better place to live

67% Said they had increased contact with their neighbours

73% Felt more belonging to their street

83% Feel more confident taking action in their community

58% Feel more confident taking the lead on a community project

71% Feel more ownership over their street green space

Hope and Wellbeing

Hope can be hard-won in these challenging times. Sometimes people can feel alone and powerless, but through our events, they met other people who care about nature and saw that they are not alone. They told us that when you can see the difference you have made every day on your own street, it is empowering, which in turn improves mental health and wellbeing.

"I feel like we've made a difference to our local area and wildlife."

Connection to Nature

Working right on peoples' doorsteps creates a lasting connection and understanding of plants, wildlife and natural processes - they see them everyday, with their own eyes. We were also proud to engage young people in the outdoors as encouraging young people to care for nature is essential in addressing the ecological crisis long term.

"My kids got involved and enjoyed planting bulbs. They enjoyed seeing them come up and felt proud of themselves."

97% Feel more connected to nature



"The Really Wild Project has been amazing. It has lifted the whole area into being a much more positive place to live"

"Although I haven't participated, seeing the groups out together gives me a sense of pride in the area."

"It makes the community feel seen and not forgotten in Bristol"





"There's less fly tipping. It's stopped on my street because of the project. Locals were dumping before and now they've stopped."

"I met my neighbours for the first time because of Really Wild!"

"It has built my confidence in speaking, taking action for nature."

"It helped me.... build a vision of how we could live in closer harmony with nature"



"You have brought people together and made Lockleaze stand out as a wildlife haven for birds bees and all creatures great and small. I hope it spreads all over Bristol."

COMMUNITY IMPACT

Really Wild Lockleaze has had huge effects on a community level as well as an individual level. From bringing a greater diversity of people into nature action, to creating civic pride, the effects are wide reaching.

Increasing community capacity for nature action

Our project model has supported several residents to become champions for nature, developing leadership and empowerment within the community. We work with over fifty key volunteers (many of whom were not previously known to LNT, or to each other), and facilitate a thriving WhatsApp community with subgroups for each greenspace. Each green space also has a management plan, and LNT maintains a fully stocked tool library. This creates strong organisational capacity to sustain momentum for nature recovery in Lockleaze.

"It has brought people together. .. It has encouraged and stimulated communication between residents, between streets, between neighbours. People who may not have talked to each other before have been connected in a way that is great to see and be a part of."

Pride in the community

There is also a feeling of renewed importance for Lockleaze, with local people feeling proud to be part of a high profile nature recovery project. The visibility of street habitat creation even creates impact for those who did not take part- seeing trees and flowers make us happy and make the area feel cared for. People who take part or who witness the work report a stronger sense of pride in the area, and even less flytipping.



Residents attend a WECA award ceremony

Increasing diversity & inclusion in nature & community action

A lot of the people who took part in the work on their street would have been unlikely to engage in a LNT or nature recovery event elsewhere, but got involved due to it being on their street, or receiving a personal invitation.

"The most valuable thing is the togetherness the team has generated/forged over a diverse range of local people"

Impact for Lockleaze Neighbourhood Trust

This project has been a high profile, game-changing project for LNT. It has had many impacts on us as an organisation, which can be read about in our CCNA "Organisational Story of Change" on our website.



Some of these include:

- Climate Action now underpins most of the work LNT delivers
- Significantly increasing our connection with residents from minority ethnic backgrounds
- Increasing the size of our team
- Introducing a model of location based micro-volunteering

IMPACTS BEYOND LOCKLEAZE:

Really Wild Lockleaze as a demonstrator

Really Wild Lockleaze is making waves in Bristol and beyond, influencing urban nature recovery at both city and regional levels. Our project exemplifies the power of combining nature recovery with community action.

Working with Bristol Council



An event in collaboration with a BCC ranger

- Inspired the council to explore creating a **city-wide 'single front door'** for residents to do this work, enabling them to win £1m Nature Towns & Cities Grant
- Creating a pathway for the council to use Housing & Highways land to help them **meet their target of managing 30% of their land for nature** by 2030.
- Forged a route for communities to work on council greenspaces on their streets with council permission, working with BCC **Housing, Parks, Trees, and Highways Departments**
- Co-developed the "**Adopt-your-verge model**" with the Highways Department.

Developing ecological strategies

- Developed suitable **techniques for nature recovery** on urban streets, & created **multiple toolkits** for other communities to use to emulate our work - Wild Streets of Lockleaze, Urban Tree Planting, and Urban Meadow Making (see our website)
- **Identifying neighbourhood scale opportunities** for nature - eg community management of the train and pylon corridor, plus the improvement of Horfield Brook.
- Demonstrating a model of using **marginal urban land** for nature recovery, eg using the attenuation ponds around the local sports centre.



Photo Jon Aitken

Inspiring communities, funders and strategists



Sector professionals on a tour of Lockleaze

- Demonstrating the value of bringing **community development** work and nature action together
- Demonstrating the value of having an **ecologist** embedded in a community development charity
- Providing **inspiration and advice** about the possibilities of community-led urban nature recovery - we have provided advice to several communities on how they can do similar work.
- **Creating ripples in the urban nature recovery area regionally** - eg showcased to national Wildlife Trusts CEO and as a casestudy for urban nature by West of England Partnership, in their West of England's Nature Recover Strategy.

WHAT WE HAVE LEARNT

Really Wild Lockleaze has led to an enormous amount of learning that will be useful for its next stage, other LNT project, and other communities with similar aims.

WHY HAVE WE BEEN SUCCESSFUL?

From planting huge numbers of trees to having hundreds of people attending habitat creation events, and all the benefits that have come, the achievements of Really Wild Lockleaze are huge. Here is why we think we have been so successful:

There is magic in bringing together community work and nature action.

Combining the positivity of nature action with the community cohesion benefits of bringing people together to improve their streets seems to turbo-charge both nature and community impacts.

Community nature action creates community cohesion, which in turn helps communities create more change. It's a win-win-win situation that needs to be capitalised on.



Photo Jon Aitken

"Really Wild Lockleaze made me feel more connected and part of a neighborhood that I haven't felt before. I really love the area we live in now and feel part of it, all whilst learning about nature around us in urban areas and helping to grow more trees."

Streets model means more action

Really Wild Lockleaze has achieved a lot in two years of on the ground work. As well as our hard working team, and the enthusiasm of residents for nature action, this can be attributed to the model of working with different groups of residents in pockets across the neighbourhood. We were able to run multiple events in a week, with different groups of people at each one.

People's love for nature is the key

A staggering 97% of residents we spoke to, when making the community plans for nature, were actively supportive of the plans. Indeed, they often told us about the wildlife in their own garden - the bats, or birds - and how much they loved them, and wanted to look after them. Nature action seems like an easy way into climate, and community action, and this must be explored in other areas.



"This project has found staggering support for community nature action in a disadvantaged community - after a lifetime of community climate action work, this was so heart warming"

Eleanor Fairbraida, Project Coordinator



Sociable events & community building are fundamental



As a community development organisation, our team is always focused on community building and creating a sociable vibe. We think this is one of the keys to our success.

"They were so friendly and helpful and brought drinks and snacks too to make it feel like a really lovely event."

Being led by the community is so important

As a charity embedded within our community for nearly 30 years, the fundamental way we work is to encourage residents to lead the change as much as possible. This is key to stimulating lasting change in communities.

"The project is so good at responding to residents interests. It's not dictating what will be done, but more done in collaboration."

The importance of the council's willingness to create change for wildlife

This project is happening at a time where the BCC is trying very hard to hit a target of 30% of its land to be managed for nature by 2030. We have found time after time that council employees care about wildlife, and community, and want to create change through their work. From the bottom to the top, the council has tried to facilitate our work, where it can. Although challenges remain in terms of communities taking on management of council land, this willingness is the foundation that everything else is built on.

The benefits of the Community Ecologist in residence role

Our Community Ecologist's knowledge and enthusiasm empowered and enthused residents. Our habitat creation events were run professionally, and partners, whose land we wanted to work on were more willing to engage. He was able to ensure we were working to best-practice in supporting wildlife, and monitoring the results. Having a Community Ecologist felt like a huge gift of value to a neighbourhood that can often feel forgotten and left behind.



Photo Jon Aitken

Creating wildlife habitat in the urban public realm

Our learning around creating wildlife habitat (urban wildflower meadow creation, tree planting, ponds and other habitats) in the public realm is extensive, and can be found in our toolkits.

- Wilding Your Street
- Planting Trees in Urban Communities
- Creating Meadows in Urban Communities

CHALLENGES WE MET

This project was very much based around action learning - trying something, and learning from what happened. There are many kinks that need ironing out, but our impacts show we are headed in the right direction. Here are some of our main learnings and challenges:

Working with land partners

Working with council departments that are not used to working with the community means that our working practices and time schedules do not readily fit. Our work with BCC was made so much easier by having a friendly contact within the council who was willing to advocate on our behalf. This should be emulated by any council considering doing this work.

Our communications with the on the ground Parks team, who managed all the street greenspace, could have been better. They should have been more closely involved at the inception of the project, and better lines of communication throughout would have been preferred.



Working on land owned by developers (the new developments in Lockleaze) can be complicated due to tensions between residents and their landlords

Limitations of our street greenspace work

Our work has been focused on the estate of Lockleaze as it has large on-street greenspaces. We explored some models of working on streets without greenspaces, but these did not take off, and need more development.

Seasonality of the work creates challenges

Habitat creation is very seasonal, which led to some very intense periods where much overtime was worked. This needs to be reflected by some other quieter periods planned in around them.

Timing of events

Most residents want to attend events outside of the team's usual working hours, which limits the number of events the team can do each month

Some residents asked for more structure and consistency of timing around events, to make things simpler to follow. Thought needs to be put into how we could make this work within our constraints.

Lack of engagement in citizen science

These were our least well attended events (with notable exceptions, like our Bioblitz) , however we believe that this is all about marketing, as we know these events are very interesting, relaxing and sociable. Ideas to improve the marketing include

- Sell them as “meeting the neighbours”, sociable, mindful events.
- Include monitoring eg FIT counts as part of all habitat creation events, to give people a taster.
- Avoid ecological jargon like “monitoring” and “vegetation”

Our communications

Our Whatsapp Community excludes some residents who do not use the app, so we’d like to establish a buddy system for residents who don’t use Whatsapp.

Maintaining consistent communications including posters and social media requries capacity, and can fall off the priority list when there’s lots of habitat creation to do.

While social media works great to keep people informed, it is not enough on its own to galvanise interest- proper community engagement and in person conversation can’t be replaced.

OPPORTUNITIES TO TAP INTO

Improving resident's gardens

While we had some success with this, it also feels like it is a largely untapped resource for wildlife. Ideas to improve the work in gardens include:

- Asking residents to monitor wildlife in their garden (residents asked us for this).
- Use campaigns to link more gardens into the project, including running a series of campaigns so streets can move from one to the other eg go poison free, connecting habitats (holes in fences) etc
- Focus on some strategically important gardens - eg ones by the railway / Stoke Park



Expand to include more land partners

We have 2 secondary schools, and 3 primary schools in Lockleaze, and this is of course reflected across the country. Establishing some easy to do, high results model of working in schools could be a powerful intervention, but we did not manage to do this. Similar work should be done focusing on churches as well.



Advantages of working in high profile places

It was clear to us that it is essential to plan with the community where you can, for the community buy-in that leads to. However, doing large events on big pieces of land like Parks, town squares etc, which may need to be done by consultation only, can pull in really big crowds to events, and so should be considered.

Enabling our community to lead

While there has been some examples of residents going out onto their street greenspaces and working together without us, these are the exceptions rather than the rule. The model we have shown that works, is one where a community organisation is there to lead the work. Residents are not automatically able to take up the mantle, due to their own life pressures / lack of practice or confidence at community action with their street.

We could support residents to lead by building in more:

- Bespoke training events for our community champions
- Volunteering opportunities aimed at growing our residents capacity to run the project eg running events, or leading walks

Communications

There is even more potential to share our story nationally and locally, with both traditional and social media. Some of this requires forward planning and upskilling- for example, a video of a greenspace being transformed could be really engaging, but requires filming several times over a year and cutting together.

Project governance

The steering group model worked well -we got some really useful guidance from them, and they said they felt well supported and useful. However, attendance could have been better, and more resident (particularly Really Wild Volunteer) input would be good. We should include residents from the street greenspaces, residents from marginalised groups, and non-nature loving residents, as well as more input from big local partners such as schools, and churches.

Exploring and improving our social events

Lockleaze Nature Network

Lockleaze Nature Network (LNN) events started off well attended and then dwindled. We deliberately tried to model this as its own network, not attached to Really Wild Lockleaze. It was hoped this would mean it would outlive the project, and be supported by other nature based organisations in Lockleaze. In reality, there are not enough other nature based organisations motivated to put the work in to make the network a success. We hope to reintroduce them as 'Really Wild Socials' in the next phase.



Our wonderful RWL volunteer evaluation lunch, where people really valued meeting residents from across Lockleaze who were doing the same thing as them, has made us feel motivated to explore shifting the LNN to be more based around and owned by RWL.

Focus on Nature Connection

Really Wild Lockleaze has been very focused on habitat creation in order to help nature. What would happen if we also introduced nature connection work? Would it change people's hearts and minds towards nature, and increase their wellbeing even further? It could help create a deeper commitment to the project, connect people more deeply, increase awareness of local wildlife, and empower more action. It would be very interesting to explore this in the next phase.

The community cohesion benefits

Our evaluation made it obvious that there were huge community cohesion benefits, and there are huge opportunities there for LNT to tap into to help address other issues eg inclusion, or community climate action.



Evaluation

It would be good to build in some more detailed and valuable evaluation from the start - for example having a sample of residents who do a "before" and "after" snap shot of recognised wellbeing and nature connection indicators.

CONCLUSIONS & WHERE NEXT?

Really Wild Lockleaze has improved vast areas of a North Bristol ex-council estate for wildlife.

And while doing so, it has created many positive benefits for residents and the wider community of Lockleaze. This community-led nature action on people's streets has increased people's hope, wellbeing, and ability to take action in their communities, all while improving their community's pride, cohesion, and leadership. It has also been fruitful for Lockleaze Neighbourhood Trust, enabling us to make a real contribution to community resilience, and introducing a diverse group of residents to our work. With Really Wild Lockleaze, we are creating models and processes that other communities have already started to follow, and yet we feel this work has only just begun.



Our residents are asking us to continue this work and expand it to include more streets, including those without greenspaces. We know the positive impact this will have on Lockeaze's resilience in the face of the coming climate crisis. Our Lockleaze Community Plan 2026-30 has underlined local love of nature. Our community partners, and residents want to be involved, and for their gardens, as well as their streets, to be part of this positive change for nature and our community.

West of England Nature Partnership has highlighted the importance of the railway, pylon, and Horfield Brook "corridor" coming down through the centre of Lockleaze. We want to do scoping work to establish what our community would like to see happen there, and what would be possible in terms of improving it for wildlife.

One part of the corridor is a Site of Nature Conservation Interest, and we want to explore how our community can help manage it for wildlife, especially as we are being gifted a brand new building very close to it, which we intend to turn into a Nature Centre. We have supported a successful but very small community garden, and now want to create a bigger community garden on another section of the corridor to be a hub for food growing in Lockleaze.



Just over the railway, our residents want to **daylight sections of Horfield Brook** and free it from sewage to improve it for people and wildlife - we are well placed to support them to do this. We would like to explore what investment these big ideas for urban nature recovery could bring into Lockleaze.

Increasing the canopy cover would transform Lockleaze for people & wildlife: Lockleaze has many long concrete streets with no tree cover, unlike many other green leafy neighbourhoods in Bristol. Increasing the canopy cover would provide enormous benefits for wildlife, but also for residents' health and wellbeing as our climate heats up. We would like to explore what Really Wild Lockleaze can do to transform Lockleaze into a healthy, tree filled neighbourhood.

We see a future where Lockleaze is a national flagship for community-led urban nature recovery, showing what an urban community can do for nature, but also what nature can do for an urban community. Lockleaze is a sweet spot of a community with a lot of publicly accessible greenspace, as well as a love of nature, and enough disadvantage that grant funding projects is possible. 79% of Lockleaze residents surveyed said they would like to actively take part a Really Wild Lockleaze that continues into the future.

Nature Together Project

We are excited to be part of Bristol City Council's Nature Together Project. This will hopefully fulfill our ambition of our council taking ideas from our work to enable residents across Bristol to create more space for nature on their street greenspaces.

Starting in January 2026, and running until the end of 2027, we will be working with Bristol City Council to wild more Lockleaze Streets, and help the council develop their "One Front Door Green Permit" idea. We will also be working with our community to develop neighbourhood scale plans for nature for example around our Pylon & Brook corridor.

Advocates for regional wide Community Climate & Nature Action

We are proud to have been asked to be advocates for community climate and nature action in Bristol Climate & Nature Partnership's CCNA Project as it grows from city wide, to regional across the South West. We will speak at events and advise on the development of the project using the wealth of knowledge we have developed. We will bring a community perspective to strategic spaces, representing our community but also communities in Bristol and the West of England in general. We will also mentor new West of England communities following a similar path.

LEARN MORE

- **Website:** www.lockleazent.co.uk/project/really-wild-lockleaze
- **Facebook:** www.facebook.com/reallywildlockleaze
- **Monthly email newsletter:** mailchi.mp/4731be221ed9/rwlnewslettersignup
- **Really Wild Lockleaze film:** www.lockleazent.co.uk/rwlfilm
- **Our Resources: summary reports, case studies, and toolkits for rewilding streets, creating urban meadows and planting trees in cities:** www.lockleazent.co.uk/project/really-wild-lockleaze/resources/
- **How to rewild your garden videos:** www.lockleazent.co.uk/project/really-wild-lockleaze/really-wild-videos/

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Most of all we would like to acknowledge the debt we owe **all Lockleaze residents** who have been involved, especially our **Street Champions**, and our **Really Wild Lockleaze Steering Group**. Without your passion and drive, this work could not have happened. We want to thank and acknowledge **Bristol Climate & Nature Partnership**, and all our community partners in the **Bristol Climate & Nature Action project**, for your mentoring and inspiration. Thank you to our funders, the **National Lottery Communities Fund**; **Avon Wildlife Trust** for their incredible partnership, without whom this project would not have been so successful; **Bristol City Council Parks** department, including **One Tree Per Child** Project for being up for exploring this path with us; our land partners - **Bristol City Council Parks, Housing, Highways and Heritage Parks** departments, **Lockleaze Sports Centre**, **St Mary's & St James' Church**, **The Vench**, and **Abri Housing Association**, for lending us your space to create habitat; **Lockleaze Green Gym,** and the **Trust for Conservation Volunteers** for invaluable collaboration at the Lockleaze Sports Centre; artists **Charli Clark and Sylvia Rimat** for your wonderful Field Stories project, and teachers and students at **Trinity Academy**, **Stoke Park Primary**, and the Vench, as well as older residents at LNT's **Art for Wellbeing**, and **John James House** for your contributions and **Steve England** for his advice and brilliant events. And finally thank you to our team at **Lockleaze Neighbourhood Trust** who helped this project to blossom.

Front cover illustration is by Scott Farlow.



Photo Jon Aitken

"The Really Wild project means love, nature and community connection. I have made new friends, found a passion for gardening and feel a part of this community"

"This project is a win-win for nature and people, please keep going!"