

# **APSE Northern Region**

## **Building resilient communities**

Homes for Hedgehogs: Building  
Brighter Future Together

**David Calland – Operational Manager Projects**

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## **Project Outline/Background**



**Collaborative Community Conservation Project  
Building Sustainable Hedgehog Homes**

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## Introduction

- Volunteers from Low Hall Nature Reserve Community Group approached Wigan Council for support with a conservation programme.
- Aim: **Create safe, sustainable homes for local hedgehogs**
- This project also aimed to nurture:
  - Practical Skills
  - Environment Awareness
  - Inclusive Teamwork
- Brought Together local tradespeople, school children with SEMH needs, apprentices, council staff and volunteers

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## **Executive Summary**

Wigan Council is committed to listening to community needs and responding with compassion

- Support was delivered through:
- School workshops
- Local initiatives
- Partnerships with community leaders
- Provide a consistent and positive presence
- Build a stronger, more supportive community environment
- The collaboration project addressed declining hedgehog populations by manufacturing and installing safe nesting homes within the nature reserve

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## Project and Leadership Roles

Hedgehog house design and construction led by:

- Experienced Conservationists
- Skilled Tradespeople
- Apprentice Joiners
- Young Enthusiastic Learners
- Demonstrated effective partnerships working across sectors
- Aligns with Wigan Council's corporate vision **Progress with Unity**
- Supports corporate mission: **Creating Fair Opportunities for All**



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## **Skilled – Based Workshops**

Over seven practical workshops delivered by apprentices and mentors  
Pupils learned:

- Accurate measuring
- Safe and effective tool use
- Basic joinery and construction methods

Workshops emphasised:

- Teamwork
- Time management
- Health & safety awareness
- All hedgehog homes were built from scratch, collaboratively

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## **On-Site Conservation Experience**

- Several visits to Low Hall Nature Reserve
- Students installed the hedgehog houses with support from council staff and volunteers
- Real world application of skills
- Environment understanding
- A strong sense of pride and accomplishment

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## **Community Partnership Impact**

Strong partnerships between:

- Wigan Council
- Newbridge School
- Low Hall Nature Reserve Community Group

The Project Highlighted:

- Local Wildlife needs
- Talent of young people with inclusive needs
- Outcome sparked community pride and enthusiasm for future green projects



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## **Skills Development & Student Achievements**

Improvements observed:

- Practical skills, measuring, sawing, assembling, safe tool use
- Teamwork and collaboration
- Problem solving and communication
- Time management
- Confidence building through hands-on achievement
- Understanding of sustainability and conservation
- Linking classroom learning to real-world application

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## **Outcomes**

- Fully constructed, wildlife-safe hedgehog homes installed in the reserve
- Strengthened cross section community partnerships
- Increased student engagement with outdoor learning
- Enhanced employability skills for apprentices and pupils
- Raised awareness of hedgehog conservation locally
- Improved mental wellbeing for participating pupils through hands-on, purpose driven activity

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# Progress with Unity: A new era for Wigan Borough

## Wider Benefits

- Strengthened community identity and pride
- Increased intergenerational learning between tradespeople, apprentices and students
- Practical environmental improvements within reserve
- Model for future collaboration council-led conservation initiatives
- Positive representation of young people with SEMH needs



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## Conclusion

- This collaborative project successfully combined **education, conservation and community empowerment**
- Highlighted how inclusive opportunities can develop practical skills, nurture wellbeing, and achieve meaningful environmental impact.
- Shows Wigan Council's commitment to **Progress with Unity and Creating Fair opportunities for all in action**
- **Special Thanks to Council staff, Newbridge school and community partners who made the project possible**

# Thank You

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