

Big Warsop Monitoring and Feedback Report

Please liaise with the Big Warsop Communications Officer when completing your reports in order for us to help you with your reporting.					
Project Name		FUTURE GREENS			
Organisation Name		ECOLOGIC			
Theme(s)	Strengthening the Community	Empowering People	Supporting People	Improving the Environment	Having things to do
Target Outcomes					
<p>Insert Project outcomes (from SLA)</p> <p>Strengthening the Community, Supporting People, Improving the Environment</p> <p>Improvement in the skills, knowledge, health & wellbeing of local people and to local green spaces.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Up to 4 people offered the chance to train as trainers. Minimum of 10 people receiving accreditation 40-60 schoolchildren will benefit from the project Engagement with approx. 30 volunteers (WNC & local people) 5-10 volunteers from Inspire & Achieve 					
Reporting period	Date From:	March 2019	Date To:	AUGUST 2019	
<p>1. Activities undertaken during reporting period</p> <p><i>Tell us what you have done and how well things have gone. Include any issues carried over from previous report, activities carried out and any base line monitoring. Please attach photographs, quotes, good news stories etc.</i></p> <hr/> <p>UPDATE Jan 2020:</p> <p>SHERWOOD FOREST TRUST</p> <p>AH met with the Sherwood Forest Trust in December 2019 to discuss the provision of training through the Miner to Major programme. Sherwood Forest Trust are a partner organisation working with NCC, Inspire etc to deliver this programme.</p> <p>Patrick Candler – CEO of SFT informed me that the development and delivery of the programme was behind schedule and because of this he was having difficulties accessing any funding through the scheme.</p> <p>He also advised that I should approach Inspire and the other organisations involved with its delivery independently of SFT, as I may have greater success in securing funds for training.</p> <p>Patrick also mentioned that Inspire have a preference to keep the money in-house, rather than offer it to other outside organisations for delivery. Having said that, he also stated that the provision of certificated training, at Entry to level 1, was not on offer through any other organisations within the County and because of this he felt that Ecologic was ahead of the game.</p>					

He stated that I should remain in close contact, in case of any further developments.

HORTICULTURAL PROJECT

Working in partnership with Vibrant Warsop, we have been successful in securing money for the delivery of a Level 1 course in Practical skills in Horticulture, a poly-tunnel and a tool shed. The course will provide volunteer opportunities to grow and learn about plants. We will grow native wildflowers which will provide an income stream, once established.

However, late in 2019 it became apparent that we would not be based at The Shed. This has had quite serious implications with regards to the above Horticultural provision. Because of this, we undertook a survey of potential local sites suitable for the delivery of the provision. We looked at various sites and decided that Meden school would be the perfect location, due to it being central to the community and that the delivery of horticultural projects would benefit the school and it's existing community of children and parents.

We approached the School and they agreed in principle that this would be a good project. We are now working on a planning application and a proposal to the school, in order to get this project moving.

FOOTPATHS AND CONSERVATION GROUP

We continue to assist the Footpaths and Conservation group with maintenance across the rights of way network. This work has been undertaken throughout the current reporting period and will continue into 2020. We are currently undertaking the winter work programme and utilise volunteers from Inspire and Achieve

MEDEN SCHOOL

We continue to work with Meden School, on a weekly basis to provide opportunities for the students to engage with the local environs and undertake practical work on them to improve biodiversity and improve access

During this reporting period we have engaged with 6 students up to December 2019 and we now have a new group of 8 students, who will work with us until the next group join us after Easter. The children continue to be enthusiastic about getting out and doing the practical work but we have also worked within the classroom, when the weather has been bad, to develop information flyers to promote the project to new students. This term we are looking at ways in which we can generate income through the provision of making products from the waste that we process on site. The children have expressed an interest in making natural looking litter bins for the school, bird boxes and feeders and also they want to make signs, for on site, to inform the general public of the work that the school are doing.

THE PRINCES TRUST

The programme continues to support the Princes Trust with the identification of potential projects and the support of individual students wanting to gain work experience. However, we have had no students this period.

INSPIRE AND ACHIEVE

We continue to work with Inspire and achieve and regularly field enquiries, supporting individuals wishing to undertake environmental and horticulture work within the area, these volunteers assist with the work programme across the Rights of Way network in Warsop.

INSPIRE

I support 1 volunteer who assists in a variety of work across the area. I also liaise with staff across the organisation with regards to the provision of training and how we can access the Miner to Major funding.

2. Target Outcomes the project has contributed to

Tell us the difference your activity has made in relation to the participants, the local area and the SLA outcomes.

On the whole, the programme continues to support the local community by providing opportunities for people to become involved in environmental activities. We continue to engage with others through various referral mechanisms, such as DWP, Princes Trust, Inspire and Inspire and Achieve.

We continue to promote the provision of accredited training to our partners and support organisations but as yet have not managed to secure long term funding for the provision of training. This is a work in progress and we continue to engage with outside organisations that will assist us in becoming a sustainable training provider within the area. As stated previously, no other organisation offers accredited Practical Environmental and Horticulture skills at this level, within the County and as such we need to consider any shortfalls in our delivery mechanisms and work towards a marketing and development plan to operate within Warsop alongside extending the provision into other Districts. I am currently liaising with Newark and Sherwood District council with regards to opportunities and although I may recruit from this District, we continue to carry out work within Warsop.

3. Timescales/Participant Numbers

Is project on track both in terms of timescales and the number of participants? If not what are you planning to do to address the issues? What activity was taking place when you started the project and how has this changed/increased/improved in quality?

- Participant numbers are on track with regards to the school groups. Meden school continue to engage with the programme. In total, this period, we have supported approximately **14** students from Meden
- Continue to work with Inspire and Achieve and have supported **4** volunteers, who come out to help with the work of the Footpaths group.
- No referrals from DWP

- The Future Greens project continues to support **1** adult volunteer, who wishes to gain experience of supporting others within an environmental context.
- Ecologic continues to support the Footpaths and Countryside Group, which consists of **5** adult volunteers.
- Supporting the Fun Palace event, preparing a display and supporting **10** people making bird boxes and an additional **15** who assisted or engaged

Total people supported to date: **183** (86 plus 53 plus 44 = 183)

We are still on track with the involvement of the school and the Inspire and Achieve volunteers. We have also engaged with additional people as part of our activities at the Fun Palace event.

Volunteer referrals are not as high as anticipated, despite having close links with relevant support agencies.

Also, the issue highlighted in the previous report, with regards to West Notts College, has had an impact on overall numbers.

Our target for training the trainers has not been met, due to the lack of development and proposed funding from Inspire, although this programme is still ongoing and there may still be opportunities to access funds.

A minibus is still an issue, as we are only able to take a few volunteers out in one go. In the last report I mentioned that I was undergoing several medical examinations with regards to my diabetes and this affected whether I could drive a minibus or not. This issue has now been resolved and I am now able to drive a minibus on my existing licence. Funding will now be sought for a minibus.

Not having a dedicated base also has an impact on potential numbers, as we don't have a dedicated meeting point where we can undertake activities. It is anticipated that much work will be done within the next phase of the programme to secure a permanent base at Meden School.

Plans for next reporting period

What are you going to do next?

Are there any concerns/risks to the project you need support with? What are you looking forward to?

- During the next phase Ecologic will have contacted Inspire and other organisations directly, to ascertain the availability of funding and support for offering accredited training and also the train the trainers programme through the Miner to Major scheme.
- Ecologic will continue to look at funding initiatives independent of Big Warsop

- Ecologic will have undertaken the necessary work needed to secure the site at Meden school, including the planning application and the proposal for the site.
- Ecologic will continue to develop the concept of the Environmental and horticultural training centre.
- Ecologic will continue to work in partnership with Vibrant Warsop in order to secure funding for projects within Warsop.
- Ecologic will continue to work with others, including SFT, within the Sherwood region, to offer training and volunteer experience within the environmental and horticultural sectors
- Ecologic will continue to work with the Footpaths and Countryside group, Meden School and we will aim to offer opportunities to other schools where there is capacity, in particular making more use of the site at The Bottoms.
- Ecologic will continue to work with Vibrant Warsop to discuss ways in which we could attract and engage with a greater number of adult volunteers joining the programme.

Project Budget (is the project still on track in terms of costs?)

Do you have any concerns that you will not be able to deliver you project as intended?

Budget still on track

No concerns other than the numbers of adult volunteers engaging with the programme.