



IT'S YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD - MARKING SHEET

Name of group: Millerhill Community Gardeners Group	
Assessment date: Sunday 14th July 2024	Name of assessor: Lorraine Corbett
Introduction:	
<p>The group have transformed a once neglected local park into a nature and people friendly place for the whole community to enjoy and have created pollinator friendly habitats around the village with support from the local community.</p>	
Section A - Community Participation	
<p>The group organise events for the local community including a sunflower planting activity where young people planted the seeds and monitored the height of their growing plants. The group organised a “create a garden barrel” competition where the local community planted up barrels with colourful and pollinator friendly plants and these are clearly still well cared for by the community.</p> <p>The group are very engaged with the local community, finding out what people want when they are out and about, and using an online survey so the community could decide what could be done to improve the community park. Millerhill Community Gardeners Facebook group and Instagram page keep the volunteers connected to the local community.</p> <p>A local blacksmith made supports for the signage by the pollinator flower beds, and made a beautiful village noticeboard, designed by the residents, that includes iconography of the village’s local farming and mining heritage. The blacksmith also made the Millerhill entry sign that sits adjacent to the main road.</p>	
Section B - Environmental Responsibility	
<p>The group have transformed their local park that had limited access for residents to one that has a tarmac path, seating areas, pollinator friendly flower beds and areas left uncut for wildlife.</p> <p>They have planted native trees in the park, established long flowering pollinator friendly plants throughout the village to increase insect, bee and butterfly habitats. Flower beds created in partnership with Beds for Bees have a QR code link for people to find out more about planting for pollinators.</p> <p>The green waste produced by the group’s activities is composted through the council’s collection service or deposited in a designated area of the park to degrade naturally.</p> <p>They have put up bird and bat boxes in the park and have liaised with the council to have a swathe of wildflowers planted.</p>	



Planters use only peat free compost and creative, pollinator friendly planted barrels by the community centre are well cared for by young people in the community offering them opportunities to learn about plant and insect life cycles.

The group maintains large, raised planters that sit outside the Millerhill Community Hub and are consulting with the wider community to find out what could be done with them; possibly to grow vegetables and herbs.

Section C - Gardening Achievement

Every area of planting is well maintained whether wildlife areas, planted up barrels or flowers for pollinators. The group received support from “Beds for Bees” part of the RePollinate charity, to create a stunning display of perennial and annual plants which are attractive to bees and to local residents

These areas compliment the areas of wildflowers and uncut grassland areas by the tree line to make a very welcoming and attractive community park.

The wooden barrels are beautifully designed and painted by the local community and each is planted in a unique way.

Plants are chosen to tolerate drought and so minimise watering and plants which can be divided when larger help reduce any costs and select those plants that are thriving in this area. Grass around the flower beds is trimmed regularly to maintain standards of care.

OVERALL LEVEL ACHIEVED

Level 4 – Thriving

Areas of achievement:

- The impressive transformation of a neglected park to become a welcoming community space for children to play; one that allows access for a wider range of the community and for wildlife including pollinators, bats and birds.
- The different areas of planting that appeal to a broad range of the community
- The involvement of the wider community including young people and adults in creating and planting barrel planters and from the blacksmith who made the village signage.





Recommendations/suggestions from your assessor:

- Consider developing more habitats for wildlife such as a stumpery or a dead hedge. Link up with new communities arriving and organise family friendly nature-based workshops such as bug hunts or building bird boxes for gardens.
- A website would help people see what changes have taken place over time and could host more information about gardening and wildlife for the Millerhill community. Additional onsite interpretation boards could help highlight the wildlife that visitors may see.

[How to Make a Stumpery for Insects | BBC Gardeners World Magazine](#)

[Build a dead hedge for wildlife \(rspb.org.uk\)](http://rspb.org.uk)

RESULTS

Level	Description
Level 1	Establishing
Level 2	Improving
Level 3	Advancing
Level 4	Thriving
Level 5	Outstanding

