

IMPROVING GREEN SPACES CASE STUDY



SPRING



SUMMER

How it started

Part of Green Impact for Health scheme project. We had wanted to develop our limited green areas

AIMS

To improve staff morale through team bonding exercise

- To improve staff fitness
- To try and create a green 'mindful' space for staff to sit outside to escape work

To increase biodiversity and add a little bit of nature

To provide a different type of work events away from typical food & drink events

APPROACH

- Saved dying plants from a local supermarket which were going to be binned.
- Obtained consent from the landlord to develop green areas including planting a couple of trees.
- Clarified budget of £100 with partners.
- Sent emails round to arrange a group of staff and their families together to dig some flower beds in the autumn.
- Had another late spring/ early summer 'weeding session'.

Considerations

Wanted area to be productive so planted lots of fruit bushes at the back including black and red currants, gooseberries.

Low maintenance so nothing that will grow too big which could also risk damage to property foundations and walls.

RESULT

More plant species

- Planted a small apple tree, a small rowan tree (berries for birds), spring bulbs (daffodils, crocuses, tulips) and few small shrubs (hydrangeas, heather), fruit bushes (red and blackcurrants, grape vine, gooseberries, thornless blackberry, raspberry canes), perennials (salvias, lavender, lupins).
- Introduced plants that would flower at different times of year- spring bulbs but also in early and late summer.
- Flowers add colour but good for pollinators, different types i.e open flowers to make it easier for bees etc.
- Sunflowers added in early summer as a trial.
- Lots of hardy perennials reduces cost of buying new each year.

Benefits

- Offered the used plastic plant pots to a local primary school who will be using these for green projects.
- Introduced roses for 2 staff members who have recently died as a memorial.
- Patients have got to know about it and offered more plants.
- Staff morale & fitness, passing on knowledge.
- More bees and butterflies - and a frog!

LEARNING

- Anyone can do this. Amazed how naturally this all came together with many staff members keen to help out.
- Amount of available land was small, but created a bright happy space for staff.