



Building communities. Transforming lives.

Annual Review 2018-19

ST PETER'S CHURCH



BUGLIFE



COLTON PLAYGROUND



MONKSTOWN COMMUNITY WOODLAND

Contents

Introduction from Biffa Award Head of Grants, Gillian French	3
Foreword from Biffa Award Chairman, Andrew Moffat	4
Partnership Project case study - Buglife, Urban Buzz	5
Community Buildings case study - Hilltop Community Centre	6
Recreation case study - Princes Road Play Area	7
Rebuilding Biodiversity case study - Linking Grassland Project	8
Funding Summary for 2018-2019	9



Introduction

From creating playgrounds to growing homes for pollinators and building spaces for communities to practice their yoga – the money that comes through Biffa Award is certainly spent creatively and 2018 to 2019 has been no exception!

As a result of this year's grants, longhorn cattle are now busy improving healthland habitat in the midlands, Aerospace Bristol are restoring a 103-year-old hangar and dozens of village halls and community centres have brand new toilets, roofs and windows.

Putting the money in the right places and investing in projects that produce results for local people is exactly what Biffa Award is all about. And it's not just the money that

matters, it's the people too. So often the projects we support have an incredibly dedicated group of people making them happen.

One great example is Freshwater Biological Association's Restoring Freshwater Mussel Rivers project.

The 3-year project has seen 265m of river restored, something that couldn't have happened without volunteers donating 449 days of their time.

The commitment and passion that enable projects to get off the ground is fantastic and we are so proud to support the people behind the scenes.

Gillian French
Head of Grants



Foreword

As I look back at my third year as Chairman, feel extremely proud to have been part of what Biffa Award has achieved as part of the Landfill Communities Fund.

The funding we have awarded has given communities the means to create hubs which bring together hundreds, or even thousands, of people including the most vulnerable. We have secured, heated and renovated safe places where young and old can congregate in times of need. It is at these hubs that imaginations run wild and life-long friendships are built.

We really have helped to build communities and transform lives!

Through a partnership with AIM Museums we have been able to facilitate the creation of new and exciting exhibitions showcasing the important role that some of history's most important, but lesser acknowledged citizens have played, ensuring their achievements and successes will not be forgotten.

And, as if all of this isn't impressive enough, we have also enabled the purchase of large areas of land and water, protecting, maintaining and enhancing it for generations to come and providing areas for rare species of plants and wildlife to thrive.

While these projects range in size and scale from £10,000 to £500,000, the impact they have within their communities is equally important. Sometimes the smallest improvements can have a huge impact. The projects that Biffa Award funds represent the very best aspects of community spirit and ambition.

This year we have received a huge number of expressions of interest for an incredible variety of projects. This increasing interest shows the continuing need for grant schemes like Biffa Award, especially at a time when public funding for charities and organisations is decreasing year on year. It does mean that we have had an incredibly tough challenge in allocating funds. Therefore, we have focussed on the projects which demonstrate the most need and widest community use.

I feel extremely privileged to be part of this and look forward to seeing what 2019-20 brings.

Andrew Moffat,
Biffa Award Chairman



Partnerships

CASE STUDY - BUGLIFE, URBAN BUZZ

The third and final year of Urban Buzz launched this year. The project used innovative techniques to create 840 'Buzzing Hotspots' in England and Wales for declining pollinators.

By transforming mown and unused areas of land, more than 210 hectares of rich and vibrant habitat have been created.

Urban areas provide enormous opportunities for habitat creation and the Urban Buzz project was all about utilising these spaces to help support some remarkable insects.

Work included the creation of bee

banks, formal beds, native meadows, shrubs, bee hotels and ornamental meadows, enhancing the nesting and foraging opportunities for pollinators. Over three years, Biffa Award has awarded more than £1 million to the Urban Buzz project, to support their delivery of the scheme in Birmingham, Bristol, Cardiff, Ipswich, Leeds, Leicester, Plymouth, York and Cornwall.

The project has far exceeded expectations in both community engagement and the number of buzzing hotspots it has created.



IN THE PAST YEAR OVER £4.1 MILLION WAS GRANTED TO PARTNERSHIP PROJECTS

Community Buildings

CASE STUDY - HILLTOP COMMUNITY CENTRE

Wycombe Multicultural Organisation received £36,000 to improve Hilltop Community Centre by installing air conditioning and new toilets.

As a result, the centre is now able to host more activities and groups for the local community.

The centre has served the area for more than 30 years.

During this time Wycombe Multicultural Organisation had increased the usage of the building, but the infrastructure hadn't been able to keep up with requirements.

To date sessions at the centre have included baby and toddler groups, NHS health clinics, exercise classes, training and support projects for adults with disabilities and more.

Now work is complete, the revitalised building is providing even more opportunities for people to come together.

The centre is strengthening community relations and helping to reduce social isolation as more residents of different ages and backgrounds are able to participate in activities and events.



IN THE PAST YEAR OVER £1.2 MILLION WAS GRANTED TO COMMUNITY BUILDING PROJECTS

Recreation

CASE STUDY - PRINCES ROAD PLAY AREA

The YMCA Sports and Community Centre's play area in Surrey received £34,000 to replace old and unsafe play equipment and to resurface the main area, totally transforming it.

An outdoor area has been regenerated and now includes a fenced multi-use games area and a play area with a slide, tower, climbing wall, sensory area, play hut, swings and monkey bars!

The play area is available for use by

the wider community outside of YMCA usage.

Creating safe spaces for children to play and socialise is essential in helping to grow communities.

The outdoor play area has proved to be a prime example of this with user numbers increasing as children and young people now have a vibrant, explorative space that encourages exercise, socialising and creative play.



IN THE PAST YEAR OVER £264,000 WAS GRANTED TO RECREATION PROJECTS

Rebuilding Biodiversity

CASE STUDY - LINKING GRASSLAND PROJECT

Lancashire Wildlife Trust's Brockholes Nature Reserve has completed a £74,000 project to enhance its grassland habitats and support threatened wading birds.

The project has linked together fragments of habitat at the reserve and created an additional 5 hectares of managed conservation grassland.

As well as increasing the diversity of plants and invertebrates in the grassland, the project is also expected to boost populations of threatened wading birds by means of an electric fence which will protect their eggs and

young from predators such as foxes and mink. Lapwing, redshank, ringed plover and common sandpiper are among those expected to benefit.

The grasslands will be managed by rare breed English Longhorn Cattle, and Biffa Award has funded some critical infrastructure to aid managing the herd.

Not only can the livestock access areas that machinery can't, the grazing at the reserve will be beneficial to a whole host of wildlife as the cattle begin to influence the composition of the landscape.



IN THE PAST YEAR OVER £253,000 WAS GRANTED TO REBUILDING BIODIVERSITY PROJECTS

Funding Summary 2018-19

MAIN GRANTS SCHEME

£1,359,534
Community
Buildings



£235,463
Rebuilding
Biodiversity



£200,640
Recreation

PARTNERSHIP GRANTS

£1,941,960
Built Environment



£2,188,406
Natural Environment



TOTAL AWARDED: £5,926,003

BIFFA AWARD

Since 1997, Biffa Award has allocated funding totalling more than £175million to thousands of worthwhile community and environmental projects across England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. The scheme administers money donated by Biffa Group Ltd through the Landfill Communities Fund.

LANDFILL COMMUNITIES FUND

The Landfill Communities Fund is an innovative tax credit scheme enabling landfill operators to contribute money to fund community projects situated in the vicinity of landfill sites.

ENTRUST

ENTRUST acts on behalf of HM Revenues and Customs as the sole regulator of the Landfill Communities Fund. Organisations who are awarded funding through Biffa Award must be registered as an Environmental Body through ENTRUST.



Building communities. Transforming lives.