

Building communities. Transforming lives.

# Annual Review 2017-18



Photo: Wendy Carter

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# Introduction

Another year has passed, and another 89 communities have benefitted from Biffa Award funding amounting to a combined total of over £5.6 million.

This year we have funded the refurbishment and renovation of community buildings, including the replacement of kitchens, toilets, flooring, roofs, windows and heating systems, enabling organisations to provide upgraded and fit-for-purpose facilities for the benefit of their communities for years to come.

We have also funded the refurbishment and creation of colourful and inspiring play areas and the restoration and development of meadows, woodlands and wetland areas providing a valuable and diverse habitat for rare species.

Each year we receive over 400 expressions of interest (EOI) across

the four categories of grants, with competition for funding fiercer than ever. Each and every one of these projects are extremely worthwhile, but with a finite funding pot, we have to make some difficult decisions on how we allocate grants.

Projects must show the widest community benefit, or in the case of Rebuilding Biodiversity projects, seek to deliver a significant and direct improvement to habitats or species. In this annual review you can read about some of the projects we have funded this year.

Gillian French  
Head of Grants



# Foreword

It is a privilege to serve as Chairman of Biffa Award, a scheme that since 1997 has made a significant difference to thousands of communities across the UK.

Whether we are supporting the creation of a new woodland in an area that hasn't seen butterflies for decades, or enabling a community group to refurbish a dilapidated village hall so that it can become the focal point of their community, I am always impressed at the quality of projects that come forward for funding.

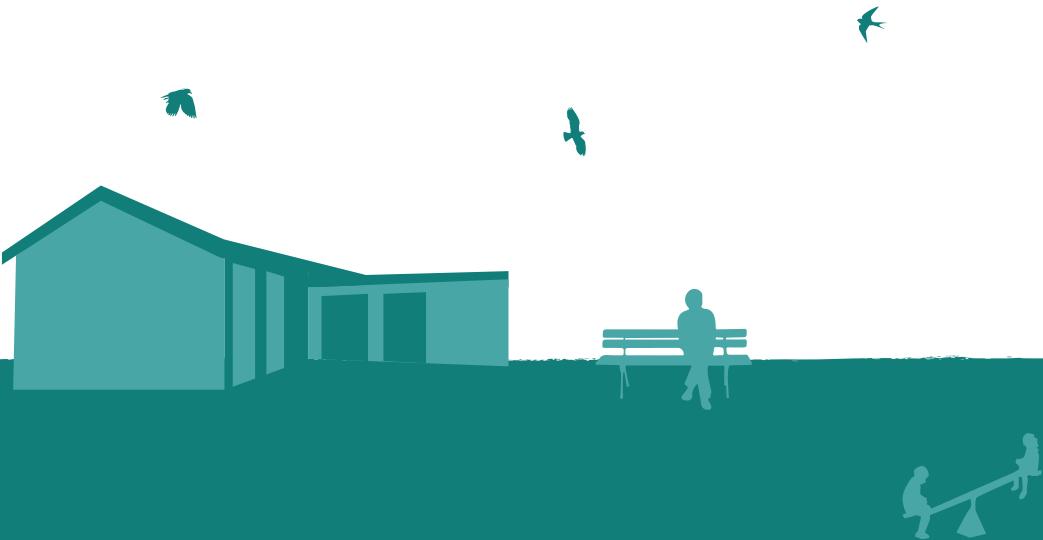
It is obvious that communities of all shapes and sizes have such passion within them for improving the facilities

and experiences available to others, from the youngest members of society to the elderly.

At a time when funding is reducing nationally, it is a privilege to have been able to grant over £5.6 million in funding this year thanks to Biffa Award and the Landfill Communities Fund.

You can read more about some of this year's successful Biffa Award recipients and the difference they have been able to make later in this annual report.

Andrew Moffat  
Biffa Award Chairman



# Partnerships

## CASE STUDY - INTERNATIONAL BOMBER COMMAND CENTRE, LINCOLN

The International Bomber Command Centre project combines a stunning, 102 ft tall monument and memorial with a state of the art immersive exhibition centre.

The centre pays respect to the fallen with a wall made up of 57,867 names. Alongside this, the project aims to educate and allows individuals to find out more about the experiences of those involved through letters, diaries and memories. The project has also created the most comprehensive, free to use database on the command's losses, with almost three million individual pieces of information. A

huge amount of detail has gone into the landscaping and memorial design.

For example, the international peace garden features indigenous plants from each nation involved while the memorial spire is the exact height of the wingspan of a Lancaster Bomber.



IN THE PAST YEAR OVER £2.1 MILLION WAS GRANTED TO PARTNERSHIP PROJECTS

# Community Buildings

## CASE STUDY - RIDGEWAY MEMORIAL COMMUNITY AND SPORTS CENTRE

Ridgeway Memorial Community and Sports Centre was established in memory of local residents in Ridgeway who died during the First World War. Over the years the centre has become a thriving and popular social club enjoyed by everyone – from yoga classes to dog training, and Women's Institute to a local pre-school.

However, as demand for the space grew the club realised it needed to

expand in order to make the most of the facility.

Following a £48,000 grant from Biffa Award the club began work on an extension. The new room, named The Centenary Room, was officially opened in March 2018.

The extension is already improving the day-to-day lives of local people by ensuring that a huge variety of activities and classes can be accommodated.



IN THE PAST YEAR OVER £1.4 MILLION WAS GRANTED TO COMMUNITY BUILDING PROJECTS

# Recreation

## CASE STUDY - THE WORKS SKATE PARK REBUILD

The Works, a south Leeds based skate park, underwent a major refit following support from Biffa Award. The park received £40,000 of funding which was put to good use in upgrading the facilities and ramps.

The Works is a social enterprise that has been working closely with schools and youth groups to get children involved with sport and learning.

The project is called Olympic Pathways, and aims to inspire and help facilitate

the development of young people in line with news that skateboarding will be recognised as an Olympic sport for the first time at Tokyo 2020.

Not only has the grant supported the existing provision at The Works, but the old ramps will be doing some good too.

Once dismantled, the discarded wood was offered out through an enterprise scheme to be repurposed by community groups and organisations.



IN THE PAST YEAR OVER £940,000 WAS GRANTED TO RECREATION PROJECTS

# Rebuilding Biodiversity

## CASE STUDY - SHIRE OAK HEATH RESTORATION PROJECT

Rare heathland and acid grassland habitats at a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSI) at Rushmere Country Park have been restored and improved, thanks to £20,000 of funding.

The project, managed by The Greensand Trust, focussed on areas of lowland heathland, lowland dry acidic grassland and lowland mixed deciduous woodland at Shire Oak Heath - an area recently incorporated into the country park.

Thirty volunteers helped with tree and scrub clearing at the 7ha site which

was previously neglected, resulting in valuable habitats becoming overgrown with birch, scrub and bracken and the area prone to anti-social use.

The creation of an improved mosaic of habitats at the site will help to attract a wide range of species including woodlark, nightjar, green tiger beetles, common lizards, slow worms, bilberry and adder.

This wooded backdrop to nearby villages can now be protected and strengthened by bringing the site into active management.



IN THE PAST YEAR OVER £600,000 WAS GRANTED TO REBUILDING BIODIVERSITY PROJECTS

# Funding Summary 2017-18

## MAIN GRANTS SCHEME

£1,438,397  
Community Buildings



£602,203  
Rebuilding  
Biodiversity



£947,621  
Recreation

## PARTNERSHIP GRANTS

£333,333  
Built Environment



£1,791,684  
Natural Environment



TOTAL AWARDED: £5,113,238

### **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.



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