European Union
European Regional Development Fund

The Interreg IVB North Sea Region Programme
Investing in the future by working together for a sustainable and competitive region

Living with Nature

Sheffield Wildlife Trust

South Yorkshire Forest Partnership/SCC Subpartner

What?

- Unused or underused playspaces close to urban social housing
- Sites are poor quality greenspace or rundown/badly designed play spaces

Why ?

Temporary plans:

- Organisation of events to engage local people in the process, and to re-engage people in the site itself

- Temporary play features to give an idea of what is possible

- Small activities – litter picking, clearing vegetation etc, to create a sense of ownership

Purpose and benefits:

- Create 8 play sites incorporating high play value and greater biodiversity
- Play sites will not be traditional, but set into the landscape
- Sites will bring nature and people into the same space
- Increased capacity and aspirations for community

STOP

Long term goals:

- For sites to act as catalyst for further mixing of natural play and biodiversity across Sheffield

- Encouraging a place-making and place-keeping legacy within local communities

How?

- Initiated by University of Sheffield and Sheffield Homes in response to a need for better community spaces
- Biodiversity expertise was a part of the project; Sheffield Wildlife Trust was invited into the partnership
- Sheffield City Council owns the land and therefore a partner

Process:

- Project is explained to the community, followed by extensive community engagement and consultation

- Draft designs produced, consulted on and firmed up

- Community engagement maintained throughout

- Delivery on site, hand in hand with encouraging ‘place-keeping’ by community

Involved:

- Local communities: tenants and residents associations (TARAs)
- Schools, nurseries and playgroups
- Community groups
- Sheffield Homes maintenance teams
- Sheffield City Council
- Sheffield Wildlife Trust

Main challenges:

- Getting people interested and excited
- Convincing people it will lead to improvements on the ground
- Fundraising for capital delivery
- Long-term management/maintenance/place-keeping

Feedback requested from Partners:

- Innovative community engagement techniques

Type of Partner to team up with:

- Partner working on community spaces with a strong community engagement element