

## St Mary's Road (Phase 1)

### Stowmarket, Suffolk

Lovell Partnerships

*BIG Challenge 2015 submission category: Community engagement*

#### Project overview

Two phases of demolition of existing post-war concrete houses and pre-fabricated garages with the construction of 14 dwellings for Orbit Homes (2020) Ltd, together with associated external works (including planting, landscaping, sheds, fencing) services, drainage, adoptable road and sewers.

#### What were the biodiversity conditions on site, prior to the enhancement?

The site comprised of four properties and two rows of garages to be demolished. The site had a low ecological value with only a marginal ecological value of the hedging and trees on the south boundary of the site, which were retained.

#### Were there any specific conditions that led to you carrying out this work?

Discharge of a planning condition required the key recommendations and additional recommendations for the ecological enhancement as stated in the Ecological Survey be implemented.

This included tree protection of the southern boundary



*Photo: Home made wildlife box*

and to retain existing nesting areas. The key and additional recommendations included formal landscaping, including *Lavendula Hidcote*, *Phlomis Fruiticosa* and *Cotoneaster Decorus*; new tree planting to the front of the site, replacement hedging, bird boxes & bat tubes.

By completing these recommendations, we were able to enhance the area to encourage migration from developed habitats nearby.

#### What were the biodiversity measures taken?

The aim was to support not only the biodiversity in the area but also the local community. As a result we firstly donated off-cuts of

wood to a member of the local community who makes various bird boxes and tables, hedgehog boxes and bat boxes.

Some of the boxes were sold on providing a profit for the local worker, some were installed on the project to encourage biodiversity and some of the boxes were donated to a local hedgehog fosterer who we worked with on the project.

The hedgehog fosterer worked with us to remove hedgehogs during the demolition phase of the project. The fosterer also raised awareness amongst all of the operatives on site to educate them about the importance of biodiversity

and the role of hedgehogs.  
On the development 4 nr  
open fronted nest boxes  
and 4 nr small hole nest  
boxes located 2.5 m high  
were installed.

Healthy flowers, shrubs and  
plants were also removed  
before the demolition works  
occurred which we made  
available to the local  
residents to replant in their  
own gardens.

This not only saved a  
number of plants but it will  
also helped encourage  
biodiversity in the local  
community. 12 trees were  
also planted on the project  
to replace those that were  
removed during the project.

**How would you best  
describe the project?**

An enhancement.

**What was your personal  
motivation for carrying out  
the enhancement?**

You don't need to spend a  
lot to support biodiversity.  
Just by saving existing  
plants or using spare  
materials to create a bird  
box, the local biodiversity  
can be supported.