

MARKET TOWN AWARDS 2007

MARKET TOWN: HEBDEN BRIDGE

PROJECT NAME: HEBDEN ROYD ENVIRONMENTAL WORKS

Partners: Hebden Royd Town Council, Calderdale MBC, and The Upper Calder Valley Renaissance Partnership (UCVRP)

Category: Environment and Culture

As part of the UCVRP programme, public realm improvements have taken place in the central core of Hebden Bridge. As the redevelopment gathered pace it became apparent that the changes to the fabric of the town needed to be softened. The loss of habitats and feeding opportunities for animals, birds and insects was also noted. The aim of this project was to tackle these two issues and to also stimulate interest and discussion by creating innovative and new styles of planting not seen in Hebden Bridge town centre before.



Following consultation and requests from members of the public it became apparent that there was concern that the new developments were sanitising and not leaving pockets of 'neglect' for wildlife to take over and inhabit.

Whilst funding was available for the new planting areas created, it was felt that by bringing other planting areas closer to the central core of the town a greater impact could be achieved.

Research identified the best planting types/schemes. Seven sites were identified, prepared and modified. Planting took place in March, 2007. The two main aims of softening and providing food/shelter for wildlife were quickly identified and achieved by careful selection of style and plant species. Other sites have been identified and plans are in place for Autumn 2007.

Locally this type of planting has not been seen, and the response from the public has been very positive. Local volunteer groups throughout the Hebden Royd area have been so impressed they have sought advice and help to establish schemes close to them.

Hebden Royd provided 50% funding, planning, research and the initial proposal. Calderdale MBC contributed by providing labour and materials for all sites and the UCVRP contributed 50% funding. The planting schemes have been absorbed into existing maintenance budgets of Calderdale MBC.

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