

## **Liverpool Environmental Research Project (Nature Based Solutions)**

PLANET

SI Liverpool 2019-2020



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In 2019, SI Liverpool joined in environmental research, part of a larger, worldwide project called 'Urban GreenUP'.

We did this through Community engagement within the concept of 'Nature Based Solutions'.

This is part of an ongoing project, aimed at offsetting the effects of climate change.

This project in Liverpool runs until May 2022 and includes partnerships with the City Council, the University of Liverpool, the Mersey Forest and other Liverpool communities.

## **Nature based solutions? Urban parks, pollinator walls, floating islands, green pavements.....**



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What are Nature Based Solutions?

This is a relatively new approach to solving environmental problems, designed to bring natural features and processes to cities, landscapes and seascapes.

The aim of this is to improve air quality, water management, cooling features and biodiversity.

These innovative solutions also support economic growth, create jobs and enhance all kinds of well-being.

## Why did SI Liverpool want to be involved?

- Opportunity to have a voice in planning
- In keeping with Soroptimist call to address climate change
- To understand principles of Nature based Solutions
- Engage in practical ways with local research
- To be actively contributing to UN SDG's



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Why did our club want to be involved?

We had been looking for an environmental project that would have a definite impact and we embraced the opportunity to have a voice in the Urban GreenUP Project.

All citizens have a right to be involved in environmental planning.

The project fitted Soroptimist aims of addressing the effects of climate change.

Nature based solutions is a new concept so we wanted a better understanding of the principles behind it.

We also wanted to engage with the project in a practical way too, which would make a difference to our city.

And finally, we wanted our involvement to help us address the UN Sustainable Development Goals, which was the focus of our Research Project.

## How did the club get involved?

- Learnt about Nature based solutions from a Liverpool Post Graduate student
- Engaged in workshops with other local community groups
- Answered questionnaires that would inform policy decisions



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How did we get involved?

Through our links with the City Council, we made contact with a Postgraduate student, who led us through the aspect of community engagement.

We discussed with her how best we could plan our Programme action.

As a consequence, she delivered a formal presentation of nature Based Solutions at a club meeting.

During Spring 2019, members attended various workshops with local community groups and individuals.

## What did we do?



Attended workshops



Counted pollinators



Identified flora



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Here are some of the examples of the practical work we undertook as part of the research.

Workshops were held in Sefton Park, where we learned about wild flowers and their insect pollinators.

We used information packs to assist with our research before completing questionnaires.

The data we collected will be used to inform future policy decisions.

## Developments so far...



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Where are we up to in the project?

We are now fully aware of nature based solutions and their usefulness in countering the effects of climate change.

We are still involved with the Urban GreenUp project until 2022 and are supporting another female post graduate in her studies.

We are monitoring evidence of the changes in the city landscape and amongst local communities.

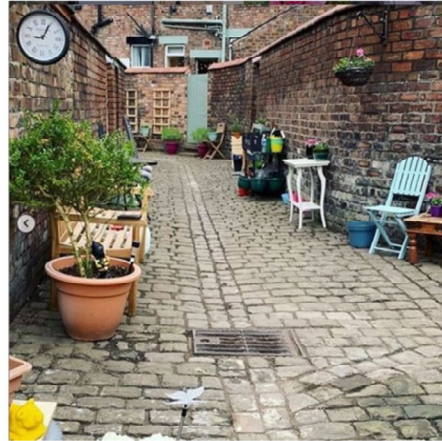
Wildflower planting is taking place in the most derelict of places in the city, while urban streets are being adapted to greenspaces and leisure activities.

Having been made aware that communities have a voice in environmental planning, since the Aarhus Convention 2001, it is great to see evidence, as in the photos, of community engagement, not only in the planning process, but also in making its realisation.



## What next?

- Planting 100 trees in the city
- Continue partnership with the project
- Help monitor effectiveness of project
- Enjoy our new urban greening!



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### What next?

SIGBI's invitation to plant trees for the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary is very timely! As a club, we are planting 100 trees in the city as part of the green up.

We will continue to assist with the research project and help to monitor the improved environmental changes the project should bring to the city.

And last but not least, we look forward to enjoying our new green spaces!

## Goodbye from members of SI Liverpool



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