




PROJECT:
**ENHANCING THE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY &
VISITOR MANAGEMENT AT NANTCLWYD Y DRE**
APPLICANT: DENBIGHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

 **STAKEHOLDERS ENGAGED**
208
 **LOCATION**
RUTHIN, DENBIGHSHIRE
 **TOTAL PROJECT VALUE**
£10,862.70

GREEN COMMUNITIES FUND OVERVIEW

The Green Communities fund, delivered by rural development agency Cadwyn Clwyd, aims to support improvements to outdoor community activities and infrastructure.

Supported through the Enabling Natural Resources and Wellbeing grant, 30 local areas in Denbighshire, Conwy, Flintshire, and Wrexham have been given support to transform their outdoor community spaces for wildlife to thrive and to create desirable places to live, work and play.

Some groups opted for funding for renewable energy systems, such as solar installations, to reduce carbon emissions and help reduce their fuel bills.



PROJECT SUMMARY

Nantclwyd y Dre, the oldest Grade I listed timber-framed townhouse in Wales, required significant improvements to its visitor and volunteer experience.

Some of the upgrades were required for its kitchen garden, which would in turn make it more robust with sustainable materials and promote the resilience of the vegetables and plants.

The heritage department at Denbighshire County Council (DCC) was also looking for ways to drive more footfall.

OBJECTIVES

The aim was for the project to promote long-term sustainability, meaning DCC was focused on appointing local contractors, who would be encouraged to source materials from North Wales.

To bolster the gardening team at the nearly 600-year-old site in Ruthin, new tools were required to support with its training and recruitment efforts.

Boosting visitors to the historic house was high on the agenda too, with plans to install wildlife cameras and monitors.



ACTIVITY

To improve the perimeter of the kitchen area of the Lord's Garden, a portion of the funding went towards a more aesthetically pleasing chestnut wood fence, which has enhanced the environmental quality, by promoting better ventilation for plant growth.

Hazel hurdle, a rustic-style boundary, was previously in place but it was deteriorating and preventing air flow to the vegetable patches and as a result, encouraged mould and fungus.

In addition, the kitchen garden has a steeper terrain towards the bottom, which was causing it to creep onto the flower bed. To rectify this, the DCC team used the grant from Cadwyn Clwyd to install slate edging to protect the structural integrity.

Other upgrades included:

- Shrubs, planters and new tools
- Benches
- A new garden shed
- Investment in bat camera technology and monitors
- Chalk boards and signage

Kate Thomson, site manager at Nantclwyd y Dre, said: "Our visitor numbers in April 2023 were at 271, which has nearly trebled compared to the previous year.

"These improvements to the kitchen garden were so important on a visual level, as well as to conserve what is a key element of the visitor experience."



"WE'RE SO GRATEFUL TO CADWYN CLWYD FOR ITS SUPPORT. IT HAS BEEN OUR AIM TO INCREASE FOOTFALL AND ENHANCE THE EXPERIENCE FOR THE PUBLIC, AND THE FUNDING HAS DONE JUST THAT."

- KATE THOMSON

OUTCOMES

With its new technology, Nantclwyd y Dre can now promote education through events such as walks and talks on interpreting bats.

The new tools and plants will support with training and recruitment to expand the volunteers for the grounds team.

Kate added: "The Lord's Garden looks fantastic, and the upgrades, including the new shed and greenery, have given our volunteers a lift, making them proud of what they're putting their hard work into, while also supporting our conservation efforts."

This project has received funding through the Welsh Government Rural Communities - Rural Development Programme 2014-2020, which is funded by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development and the Welsh Government.