

Better Neighbour Grants**PRINT**

We have been involved in hundreds of great community projects running up and down the country. Many of them start with donations of waste materials, however, we know that sometimes projects need funding to get them up and running.

Since 1997, we have offered help to over 2500 community projects and over 1500 of these have been supported by what we call the B&Q Better Neighbour Grant.

The grant offers the opportunity for schools, community groups and charitable organisations to apply to their local store for funding in the form of product for a project that involves and benefits the local community. Staff are encouraged to actively participate where possible and it is their enthusiasm and expertise that has made the Better Neighbour Grant scheme so successful.

The scheme provides £50 – £500 worth of materials (retail), to help a project get up and running. Stores can also use this scheme as part of their Community Partner relationship with local disability organisations.

The Better Neighbour Grant scheme has proven so successful we have passed a milestone in 2001 by awarding our 1000th grant. The following case studies show just how the Better Neighbour Grant can really make a difference.

1000th Better Neighbour Grant – Inner City Farm Wildlife Garden Project – Queens Road and Penistone Road B&Q Supercentres, Sheffield

Neil Slade of B&Q Supercentre Queens Road, Sheffield contacted Heeley City Farm, as he believed it to be a fantastic example of a truly sustainable community project. The community wildlife garden, which is one part of the larger project, aims to bring into use an area of neglected inner city greenspace and provide local people and visitors with an opportunity for quiet enjoyment of the natural world within an urban setting.

The area will also act as an outdoor classroom for the farm education project. Neil believes that by supporting this project, through the provision of £500 worth of materials and 'hands on' assistance, both from the Queens Road and Penistone Road stores, we are helping to support community regeneration, as the project identifies, confronts and addresses lack of opportunity in an inner city community.

How to apply for a Better Neighbour Grant



more Better Neighbour projects on factsheet 7

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Neglected pond brought back to life – Eastleigh

Tiffany Kelly of B&Q Supercentre Eastleigh, through B&Q's partnership with the Environment Agency, provided tools to the value of £300 to help with restoration work at Weeke Pond in Winchester. The pond, a former eyesore, was a dump for old bikes and rubbish and has now been transformed as part of a campaign to bring neglected ponds back to life.

Safety for Elderly People – Newry

Sean O'Hare from B&Q Supercentre Newry helped by providing £250 of safety products to the McGrathy Centre, as part of a safety scheme to help local elderly people feel safer in their homes. Trade Experts from the store also took part in fitting the safety devices to the elderly people's homes.

Education garden – North Shields

Staff and children from the foundation stage of the Westoe County Infant school with the help of staff from B&Q Warehouse North Shields created a magnificent educational garden. Materials such as peat free compost, and bird tables to the value of £300 were donated under our Better Neighbour Grant Scheme and staff members gave up their time to take part in the project.

Store Manager, Paul Midgley, said he was delighted to help such a worthwhile project, which gives the children an opportunity to understand and observe the natural environment.

Community Team Building Event, Afro Caribbean Community Centre – Stourbridge

Members of the Birmingham Community Association, together with assistance from Richard Farley and other members of staff from B&Q Supercentre Stourbridge, helped refurbish the local Afro Caribbean Community Centre by providing practical help and £250 of decorating materials, the aim being to make better use of the community centre for events and celebrations.

