



Press Release

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Blooming marvelous day for Chelmsford gardeners

Housing associations are used to finding places for people to live but two providers and their residents turned their attention to creating homes for wildlife last weekend.

Chelmer Housing Partnership (CHP) and William Sutton Homes helped organise a Breathing Places project - with Chelmsford Borough Council (CBC) - as part of the BBC's Springwatch initiative; which saw 50 teams across the country transforming waste ground into nature-friendly places for people to visit.

A patch of grass in North-West Chelmsford, Essex, was turned into a wildlife haven. Tenants, housing officers and community members joined forces from 11am to 4pm on Saturday to shape the oasis.

William Sutton Homes area housing manager Tracey Payne said: "We were delighted to be part of Springwatch. At William Sutton Homes our aim is to create attractive communities which people find pleasant to live in. Having access to wildlife and green surroundings are integral to that, so we're delighted to have been able to assist our residents in creating this area."

Malin Blom, CHP Neighbourhood Engagement Coordinator, said: "We're overjoyed that so many local residents and CHP staff became involved with the Breathing Spaces project. With the majority of its homes in North-West Chelmsford, CHP invests extensively in the area and the wildlife haven is one of many projects we are committed to. The project used around 90 plants, 16 railway sleepers and a truckload of soil to build the wildlife haven, which can now be enjoyed by all ages."

BBC Essex assistant editor Lynne Wilson said: "The aim of the day was to generate a real sense of community with everyone mucking in and having fun. I think we achieved that but it wouldn't have been possible without key groups, including William Sutton Homes and CHP."

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