

CASE STUDY THE SECRET GARDEN



PALACE SHOPPING

A once-neglected area off the Waitrose service yard has been transformed into a vibrant community garden. This project, aimed at enhancing accessible green spaces, reflects the centre's commitment to community well-being, inclusivity, and sustainability.

With support from local community groups the garden has been designed to provide a welcoming environment for staff and members of the community.

Sustainable practices are evident throughout the garden. Upcycled wooden pallets were transformed into planters and seating by Men in Sheds charitable organisation, showcasing the power of community collaboration and resourcefulness.

Volunteers from the community, alongside

the centre management team, played a key role in preparing the site and painting the walls, creating a sense of shared ownership and pride.



> The neglected space has been transformed into a peaceful and inspiring environment



PROJECT	Creation of community garden	
LOCATION	Palace Shopping, Enfield Town	
FEATURES	Community engagement, Inclusivity Environmental benefit, Staff wellbeing	
TIMELINE	May	Project meeting on site
	June/July	Space cleared of rubbish and accessibility ramp installed
	August	Part of wall demolished to make safe, benches and planters made
	September	Walls painted and gravel laid
	Early October	Planting
	October 30th	Photocall with community



> Volunteers from the local community and members of the centre management team took part in creating the garden.



CREATING THE GARDEN



> As part of the works the main wall had to be reduced in height, and made safe.

Accessibility was a top priority for the garden's layout. A new ramp was installed to ensure that people with disabilities or mobility challenges can easily enjoy the space.



> Waitrose have donated plants and bulbs, along with old crates which have been upcycled to create planters.



PLANTING

The garden features more than 30 plant varieties, including shrubs, small trees, and perennials, all selected with biodiversity in mind. This careful planting not only brings natural beauty to the shopping centre but also provides a habitat for pollinators, contributing to local ecology.



> Local gardening enthusiasts volunteered their time and expertise.

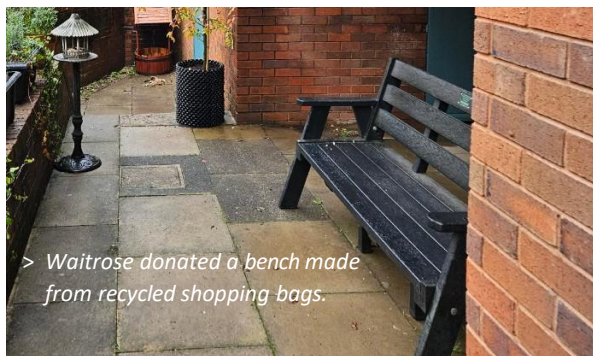
A TRANQUIL SETTING

The peaceful space will be a valuable asset for our tenants. Nature helps reduce stress, boost mental health, and improve mood, allowing employees to return to tasks refreshed. It will also encourage social connections to be made during breaks and lunch times.



"The area is a real suntrap so it will be a lovely place for staff to have a sandwich or grab a moment during the day."

Kathy Worrall, community stalwart, who has been instrumental in seeing the project come to life.



> Waitrose donated a bench made from recycled shopping bags.



Planters and benches, along with bird boxes were made for the garden by Men in Sheds members.

Men in Sheds, organized by Age UK Enfield, provide a communal space where men can engage in practical activities, share skills, and build friendships.

Members participate in various projects such as woodworking, metalworking, and electronics. The initiative aims to reduce social isolation and promote mental well-being among men, particularly those over 50.



RECYCLED AIR BUG 'N' BEE



> Old packing crates have been upcycled to create a large bug hotel. It provides essential shelter for a wide range of beneficial insects, helping to support local ecosystems.

