

# Dolwyddelan Allotment

## IMPACT REPORT

### FUNDERS:

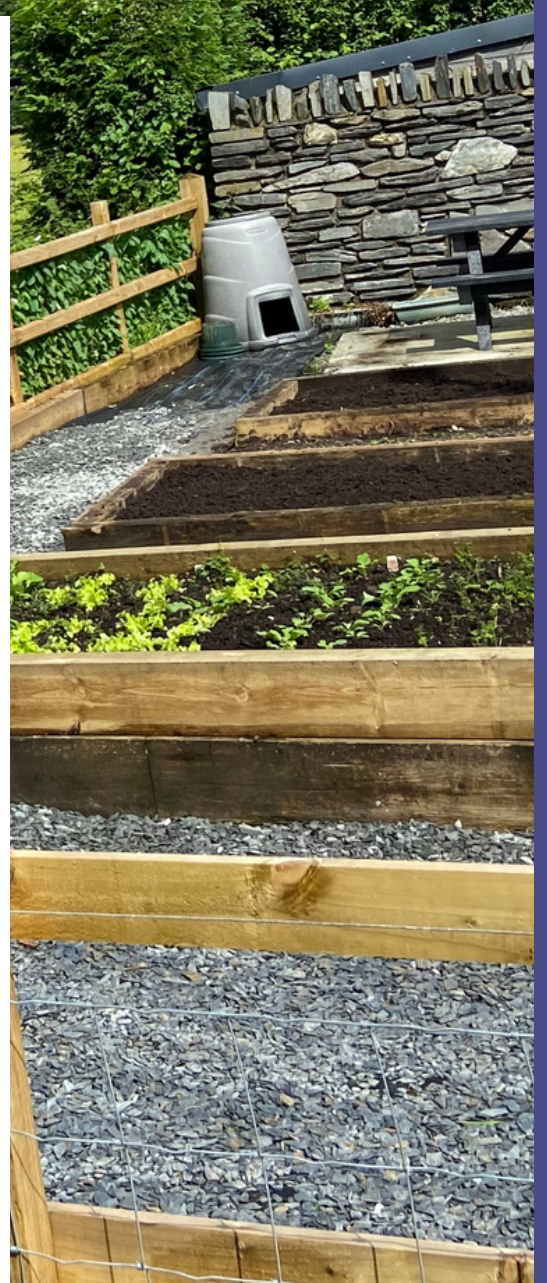


Partneriaeth Rheilffordd  
Cymunedol Dyffryn Conwy  
ac Arfordir Gogledd Cymru

Conwy Valley and North  
Wales Coast Community  
Rail Partnership



### PARTNERS:



# Project Aim

To restore and develop a small allotment in the village of Dolwyddelan by the members of Dolwyddelan Youth Club.

The youth club has 10 young people aged 11-16 who attend weekly, in a small, rural village in which there are no other services / amenities for them to attend, hence relying heavily on the services offered by the Youth Club.

During covid, the club met virtually for almost two years and one of their expressed wishes as life returned to normal post covid was to meet in the open air and enjoy group activities. Some of those activities identified were to go for walks as a group and restore and develop the village allotment. The group wanted to develop the allotment as an open space, where they could meet, work and enjoy independently. The young people also identified growing food, fruit trees and a small orchard as their priority.

There is a growing awareness of the role gardening plays in both preventing and alleviating mental ill-health. Allotment gardeners will tell you that a spell on the plot nurturing and contemplating nature makes them feel calmer and more hopeful. The young people are very aware of growing food organically and health benefits of eating home grown produce avoiding ingesting chemicals that are likely to be in shop bought fruit and vegetables.

Harvesting the fruit and making use of them e.g. jam, chutney, soups etc will be an autumn club activity which is identified as an intergenerational activity when older members of the community, experienced in such culinary skills, will assist.

# Overview

The project was led by Matt Mullender, Youth worker for Conwy South and a group of 5 young people who regularly attend a weekly youth club in Dolwyddelan village. The project was started by a local builder who came in to remove waste material which had been dumped by locals over a period of time. Once the area had been cleared, Matt and the young people took over by weeding, mowing, and removing existing beds. They cleared pathways and inserted new beds using railway sleepers purchased from a local supplier.

Initially, there were 4 beds on the plan, however after a brief consultation, the young people decided they wanted a bench that they could use to meet, talk, and use as a safe space. A concrete base was laid at the furthest point for the bench to sit.

Once the raised beds were in situ, Matt, and his youth group re-laid slate to create new paths and planting produce. Lettuce was planted along with carrots and potatoes which were used in an evening session to make an evening meal of chicken salad, which the group ate. This gave them the understanding of the cost of homegrown produce compared with shop-bought.

Matt is planning an open day to launch the garden officially, and to engage more of the community to adopt this area. He says, ***"there has been a great benefit to the different generations working together on this project, the older generation have really enjoyed working with the younger generation, being able to share knowledge and skills"*** He also said ***"there are a lot of people in the community with the skills we need to maintain this allotment and we hope that having an open event will encourage them to support us."***

# Outcomes

## Providing a voice for the community

An opportunity for young people and older generation to come together and engage more. This project has helped young people understand sustainability and the benefits of home grown produce versus supermarket bought. This project has also given the young people a sense of independence and responsibility, along with a space to talk openly, be with friends and take time away for peace of mind.

## Bringing communities together, supporting diversity & inclusion

Following the tragic passing of a young man from the village, friends wanted to create a project that would bring them together and give them an opportunity to speak openly about the passing of their friend. They also wanted a space they could use to seek time away from everyday life.

## Supporting social and economic development

This project has offered young people an opportunity to use their time more productively. It has taken them out of their rooms and into the outdoors. They know understand the process of food production, from seed to plate, and appreciate the benefits to cost of living. Allotments are also known for attracting wildlife, creating habitats for insects and bees.

# Future Outcomes

Conwy Youth team to hold an open / fun day in the village to actively engage and recruit new community members to maintain the site.

New produce and shrubs to be planted ready for the summer season.

Ongoing cookery sessions at the youth club using produce grown.

CRP and Conwy youth team to collaborate on future projects.

A group of volunteers has already been established to maintain the allotments.



# Before





# After





# Evaluation

“ We don't have a lot of places we can go here in the village as there isn't much here for young people. The allotments give us somewhere to go and something to do as we have a lovely bench area and are able to work on the project without being supervised. ”

“ I developed a lot of skills doing this project and it has helped me develop my skills but also develop as a person. ”

“ I didn't enjoy being outdoors and just wanted to stay inside. But now having the allotment I do go there and enjoy being outdoors more. ”

“ The project has been a great success getting young people involved in a project that will benefit the whole of the community and hopefully bring young people and over ages in the community together due to interest in the allotments. I can see the development of the young people involved in the project and can only thanks all who helped fund the project. ”

PROJECT  
COST

£4425

APPROXIMATE  
VOLUNTEER  
HOURS

40

APPROXIMATE  
LENGTH OF  
PROJECT

1 MONTH