

Stony Stratford in Bloom

Community Grant Programme



Organisation:
Stony Stratford in Bloom (SSIB)
 Project: **SSIB North End Pond Project**

Beneficiaries: **106**
 including children, people over 65 years and people with disabilities.

Location:
Milton Keynes
 Region: **London and South East**

£5,000k

awarded to improve access to the wildlife conservation area

For further information visit:

<http://betl.nationalgrid.co.uk/>

or contact:

Community Helpline
 01285 841912

Community Grant Case Study

Stony Stratford in Bloom (SSIB) is a non-profit voluntary organisation originally formed in 2007 to enter Stony Stratford into Britain in Bloom. The organisation is made up of a group of volunteers who are passionate about making Stony Stratford and surrounding areas even more beautiful.

SSIB North End Pond Project

The North End Pond Project was formerly a gas decompression site consisting of waste ground covered in brambles and litter. Since 2010 local volunteers have been working hard at the site to make it less of an eyesore. They have been gradually clearing and developing the land into a wildlife conservation area.

After visits to the project area by local schools and community groups their feedback made it clear that improved access to the site should be a priority to encourage repeat visits.

The area includes a wildlife meadow and there is a snake box, bat and bird boxes, and a pond, which attracts a range of wildlife including frogs, newts, dragonflies, ducks and moorhens. Local schools can use the area to help pupils learn about the environment and conservation.

The project is hoping to attract around 500 people per year to the site. This would include 300 pupils from local schools, 100 people with disabilities from local community groups and 100 older people.

National Grid awarded SSIB a £5,000 Community Grant to improve access to the wildlife conservation area. The grant has covered the costs of extending the pathway, levelling ground and adding railings on both sides of the pond; this has allowed for a viewing jetty to be created with room for a visitors seating/picnic area.

Commenting on the grant Judith Deveson, Chair of Stony Stratford said: 'We are very grateful to National Grid for making this project possible. Parents have been bringing their children to the pond for pond dipping now the site is more accessible.'

