



# Love Solihull

## Corporate Social Responsibility

### Employee volunteering



## 1 What is Love Solihull?

Love Solihull supports Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council's plan to build stronger communities, where everyone has an equal chance to be happier, healthier, safer, and more prosperous. Love Solihull aims to inspire, encourage and enable everyone from across the borough to make where we live a place we can all take pride in.

It is about building on the great work that individuals, businesses and community groups already carry out and encouraging every one of us to do our bit to make a difference to transform our communities.

## 2 Environmental Volunteering

Organisations such as businesses, charities, and public sector organisations are choosing group volunteering as a team building exercise with a difference. We offer a wide range of corporate volunteering opportunities for businesses and groups who are keen to improve their local environment. Tasks can include:

- Wildlife conservation such as tree planting, pond clearance, woodland and meadow management
- Parks improvements such as painting playgrounds, pruning, path mulching, boardwalk construction, or bench painting.
- Creation of outdoor learning spaces within schools grounds for pupils to learn about wildlife and food growing.
- Rights of way maintenance such as path resurfacing, step construction or cutting back.
- Developing community gardens that assist with improving users health & well being while providing an area for local food growing.
- Painting community centres and day care centres

## 3

### How does your business benefit?

People who work well together as a team are one of the most valuable assets any employer can have. There are many team-building tools available but few are as satisfying, and widely beneficial as a community challenge. Connecting with a local community-based project can provide both employers and teams with many benefits:

- An outstanding sense of achievement for all who take part.
- A real team building experience, impossible to replicate in the training room.
- It has positive effect on brand value and reputation.
- It can assist with bringing to life your corporate values.
- Employee volunteers can make a real difference to local communities.

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### How do your employees benefit?

- Create a sense of achievement at a personal and team level.
- Gain a greater understanding of their local communities.
- Increased team working and better working relationships with colleagues.
- An increased level of engagement within your organisation.

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### What we will provide

- All the projects we offer will have sustainable outcomes, benefiting the community of Solihull.
- Detailed project plans include, project purpose, project roles and responsibilities, project goals and project outcomes.
- Undertake a relevant risk assessment.
- On site co-ordinator that is fully first aid trained leading the team throughout the project.
- Tools and equipment, including appropriate PPE where specified.
- Indemnity insurance.

## What we need from you

- Commitment to provide at least 5 volunteers on project days.
- Wear suitable clothing for project – advice will be given.
- Some of our projects require additional resources / material, if you are able to contribute to this any donation would be greatly received as the more savings we make then the more projects we can fund.
- We understand that unforeseen circumstances may occur and you may be unable to attend the project – please inform the project co-ordinator as soon as possible. There may be an opportunity to rearrange, if not then the project will be offered up to another business.
- Be willing to get your hands dirty and have fun!

## Case Study: Enzen and NPower dig in at Kingshurst Community Allotments



An area of the site had been unused for a number of years and had become overgrown and unmanageable. The existing allotment tenants needed help with turning the area in to a community garden that could be used by local residents, schools, and youth groups.

As part of their corporate social responsibility, Enzen a local business from Blythe Valley Business Park and a team from Npower welcomed the chance to help improve the health and well-being of the local community. In total 30 staff came out over three days across the winter to help create an outdoor classroom, wildlife pond, and food growing beds. A variety of habitats were created to increase the biodiversity and encourage pollinators. Residents will be able to learn about food growing and contribute to the Food Growers Network, which involves fruit and veg being distributed to those in need in the north of Solihull.

*“It was great to be a part of this project, making a difference to our local community. Enzen values Corporate Social Responsibility and encourages all its staff to take part, recognising the value that staff gain from engaging in community projects” – Becky Knight, Enzen.*

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## Case Study: Marston Green Park action day with Jaguar Land Rover & Amey



Ten big-hearted employees from Jaguar Land Rover gave up two days of their busy working week to help restore some of the equipment in Marston Green Park. The volunteers were keen to give back to the community as part of a team-building day and chose to use their time and energy in helping users of the park.

The purpose of the project was to protect the environment and allow the local plants and wildlife to flourish and to provide better recreation facilities for all the visitors to Marston Green Park. The removal of the waste in the river, painting or wood staining of various bridges, fencing, benches and posts, and cut back of brambles, branches and overgrown shrubbery has rejuvenated the Park and will provide a safe environment for the public to enjoy.

*“It was a great pleasure doing the project for Love Solihull. It was such a pity we could not have spent a few more days in the park and do a few more things. It has been rewarding for us back at JLR too as we have been able to build a rapport with the shop floor. It would be a pleasure to work for you again in the future, and hopefully, job permitting, we can do more projects for you.” – Vince Kiely, Jaguar Land Rover.*

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## Case Study: Network Rail lend a hand at St Alphege School



Children from St Alphege School will once again be able to use their wildlife area for pond dipping. Thanks to the help of 15 employees from Network Rail, a new liner has been installed in the pond. The volunteers also weaved a willow fence, constructed a willow bench, cleared nettles & brambles and painted the bottle greenhouse.

The schools gardening club is run with the support of two volunteer parents and they run weekly sessions during term time. Children will now be able to be involved in all aspects of the garden including creating and developing new habitats for wildlife as well as maintaining the garden. Everything on the site has been created through the parents sourcing voluntary donations and fund raising.

*“Thank you so much for all the time you dedicated to supporting our garden pond project. We are very grateful for the enormous amount of help that you gave so freely. As a relatively small school with a limited number of staff we do rely on, and benefit from, the support to of the wider community” – Jo Slough, Head teacher at St Alphege Junior School.*

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## Get in touch

If you would like to discuss how your business can get involved with Love Solihull please contact us by.

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