

## Grants available from county council for environmental projects

Leicestershire County Council's SHIRE environmental grants, worth up to £3,000, are available to support local projects which help the environment and reduce household waste in the county.

One group who has benefitted from the grants already is Burbage Parish Council who used the money to plant hedges in popular green spaces to create new habitats for native animal species.

Species including hazel, hawthorn, rowan, dog rose, blackthorn and pussy willow have been planted at Britannia Road Recreation Ground and Far Lash open space, together with native trees including oak and silver birch, as part of the ongoing biodiversity project.

As an extra encouragement, bird and bat boxes, including ones designed for barn and tawny owls, have been put up in safe places across the parish.

Burbage Parish Council Estates Officer, Andy Harrison, said: "Together, these carefully managed habitats will offer food and shelter to a wide range of creatures, from insects and amphibians to birds and small mammals, and will allow for the natural introduction of a greater variety of wild plants, increasing the richness of flora and fauna for all to enjoy."

Councillor Blake Pain, deputy leader of Leicestershire County Council and cabinet member for the environment, said: "Leicestershire's collective mission is to reduce our overall greenhouse gas emissions and the amount of household waste we produce whilst also increasing our biodiversity throughout the county.

"The SHIRE Environment Grant enables community groups and organisations to make fantastic environmental changes and helps Leicestershire towards its goal of becoming a net zero carbon emissions place to live by 2045. Everyone can play their part in achieving this goal and I would encourage more groups to apply for a grant."

The deadline to apply for a grant is Friday 25 June, find out more and apply here: [www.leicestershirecommunities.org.uk/grants/environment-grant.html](http://www.leicestershirecommunities.org.uk/grants/environment-grant.html) or email [environmentgrant@leics.gov.uk](mailto:environmentgrant@leics.gov.uk).

The grant will only be available for projects where the main beneficiaries are residents of Leicestershire county and should help reduce the amount of household waste or greenhouse gas emissions within communities, improve biodiversity or support sustainable green spaces. A simplified application process is also available for smaller grants of up to £300.