

**Case study title:** Thameslink – Community Engagement  
**Month/year:** February 2015

**Business unit:** Construction Services - Rail  
**Project:** Thameslink – Peterborough Spital Sidings  
**In partnership with:** Network Rail (Client), CR Civils, Apex and Travis Perkins (Suppliers)  
**Key contact:** Debbie Bewley (Sustainability & Assurance Manager) – [Debbie.bewley2@carillionplc.com](mailto:Debbie.bewley2@carillionplc.com)

**Thameslink Sustainability Strategy Objectives**

- ✓ Minimising trespass on the railway (Objective 4)
- ✓ Proactively engaging with Communities (Objective 7)
- ✓ Enhancing Biodiversity (Objective 20)

### Background

As part of the Thameslink Programme (TLP) to increase rail capacity through central London, Carillion is responsible for design and construction of a new train stabling facility at Peterborough Spital Sidings.

The Carillion Community Engagement Plan for TLP aims to support a local school near to all their project sites which includes presentations on railway safety and career opportunities in rail. The Carillion team at Peterborough wanted to take this a step further and contacted Thomas Deacon Academy Junior College with the idea of constructing something that pupils could enjoy and participate in.

After meeting with the Head Teacher, they agreed on a habitat garden with bug hotels and raised planting beds including disabled access. The idea was launched at a school assembly presented in collaboration with Network Rail which included an engaging quiz on railway safety and an invitation to the children to submit their design ideas for the habitat garden. The bug hotels/raised planters were constructed on site and transported to the school during half term in February 2015 when the team also spent 3 days installing and landscaping the imaginative garden ready for the children's return. Carillion were supported by donations of materials from some of their suppliers; CR Civils, Apex and Travis Perkins.

Representatives from the Peterborough team were invited to a ceremony in March 2015 with the children and their parents where a ribbon was cut by Steve Finigan, COSS for Carillion, to officially open the habitat garden. Simon Martin, the Head Teacher commented, "We are really pleased to have our new habitat garden. It gives another aspect to our school and will be a vital resource in helping children learn about plants and animals. The children are really excited to see their designs become a reality and they can't wait for the weather to improve to start planting." The final words go to some of the school children themselves; Adam, aged 8 said "The garden is very good, I like the space to grow plants and the homes for all the mini beasts." Arwa, aged 7 added, "It's designed really well and it looks like a hotel for bugs." The school is going to keep the project posted on how the habitat garden develops.

### Key Achievements:

- Promoted rail safety message to 90 local junior school children
- Habitat garden designed to be accessible by all pupils including the mobility impaired
- Provided a resource to encourage learning about biodiversity
- Contributed to biodiversity enhancement by providing additional habitat for insects
- Proactively engaged with the local community to address local needs and leave a legacy of social contribution
- Actively encouraged wide representation from the site delivery team to participate in community engagement with a total of 320 volunteer hours completed by the team
- Supply chain donated materials to the value of £2,950



Photo 1 – Area at school prior to installation of Habitat Garden with example design submitted by one of the school children



Photo 2 – Habitat Garden completed ready for planting and bugs to move in.



Photo 3: Garden officially opened by Steve Finigan, COSS from Carillion Peterborough Team