

# TLP Best Practice on BDU & SSP Community Engagement at White's Grounds



## Introduction

In March and April 2013 the Structures Strengthening project delivered an opportunity for community engagement, in line with the project's sustainability strategy action plan.

### The challenge

The SSP team were aware of the localised disruption that was likely to be caused by the strengthening works to Crucifix Lane Bridge and thought it was important to not only give something back to the community, but to be highly visible in doing so.

The local residents were made aware that our presence was primarily to help and also to strike up a rapport with the community who would hopefully realise we were aware of them and considerate towards them.



### What we did

The project team volunteered time and resources to help Groundwork London plant a herb garden in White's Grounds Estate, immediately opposite Crucifix Lane and adjacent to the flats that would be affected by the strengthening works to the bridge.

Over the course of the two weeks leading up to Easter, the SSP team spent over 80 man hours to build

timber plant boxes and create a spiral rock garden. These were planted up in a joint venture with children from the local Snowfields Primary School, and the garden was officially opened on 8<sup>th</sup> April 2013 by Raymond Blanc. The event was reported live on BBC Breakfast with Carol Kirkwood.

### The benefits

The project team is confident that this unusual level of community engagement, along with the community relations undertaken to ensure that our neighbours we kept well informed about the works, helped to ensure that we did not receive the level of complaints during the works in May and August, that we otherwise might have expected.

The project contributed to the delivery of Objective 7 of the TLP sustainability strategy: community engagement. It also benefitted our own people by providing an opportunity to take part in volunteer work.



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