

Round Hill Community Pocket Park

South & South East in Bloom 2026

It's Your Neighbourhood Submission



May 2026: Pollinator-friendly planting at the Round Hill Community Pocket Park. The Pocket Park has transformed a previously underused streetscape into community-managed green infrastructure that supports biodiversity, climate resilience and neighbourhood participation.

Submitted by:

Round Hill Society – Round Hill Green Spaces

Location:

Round Hill Conservation Area, Brighton & Hove, East Sussex

Assessment Category:

It's Your Neighbourhood

Judging Visit:

This project will be assessed by South & South East in Bloom Judge **Chris Murphy** on **16 June 2026**.

Submission Theme

From Tarmac to Pocket Park: Creating Round Hill's First Public Community Green Space

This submission tells the story of how residents worked together over five and a half years to transform a hard-surfaced area affected by pavement parking into the first publicly accessible community green space within the Round Hill Conservation Area.

Led by Round Hill Green Spaces, the environmental subgroup of the Round Hill Society, the project brought together residents, volunteers, councillors, council officers, local businesses and environmental organisations to design, fundraise for, deliver and maintain the Round Hill Community Pocket Park. What began as an effort to create a small community garden has grown into a wider programme of nature recovery, environmental volunteering and community-led greening.

The Pocket Park demonstrates how community-led action can create lasting environmental and social change. It has improved the public realm, increased opportunities for residents to connect with nature, supported biodiversity, strengthened community participation and inspired similar greening initiatives elsewhere in Brighton & Hove.

At its heart, this is a story about transformation: transforming an overlooked urban space into a valued community asset and showing how a single local project can encourage wider community action and environmental improvement.

Project Overview

Round Hill Green Spaces was established in 2018 as the environmental and community greening subgroup of the Round Hill Society residents' association and operates under the Society's auspices. At that time, the Round Hill Conservation Area, home to more than 2,000 residents, had almost no publicly accessible green space despite being one of Brighton & Hove's most densely developed neighbourhoods.

Residents identified a large tarmacked area beside the southbound Ditchling Road bus stop as an opportunity to create a community green space. The site had become increasingly affected by pavement parking, reducing pedestrian space, creating accessibility concerns around the bus stop and detracting from the appearance of an important gateway into the conservation area. What is now a thriving community garden was previously a hard-surfaced area dominated by vehicles, offering little environmental value and limited opportunities for community use.

Over the following five and a half years, Round Hill Green Spaces worked with residents, councillors, council officers, local businesses, environmental organisations and funding bodies to develop proposals, secure permissions, raise funding and mobilise volunteers. Operating through the Round Hill Society, the group reported annually to the Society's AGM throughout this period. It maintained regular communication through community newsletters, social media, public meetings and community events.

Round Hill Green Spaces designed the Pocket Park in consultation with Brighton & Hove City Council's City Parks, Highways and Planning teams. Following the award of a £13,500 UK Shared Prosperity Fund grant, £2,000 from Round Hill ward councillors' local funding allocations, and a further approximately £4,000 raised from charitable trusts, local businesses and residents, the Round Hill Community Pocket Park was installed in April 2025. The four handcrafted planters represented an investment of approximately £17,000 and formed the centrepiece of the project.

The project created the first publicly accessible community green space within the Round Hill Conservation Area. Delivered through volunteer leadership and community partnership, the Pocket Park has become a focal point for environmental education, nature recovery and neighbourhood participation. More than thirty volunteers now help maintain the site. Open Days, plant sales, Community Garden Month activities and Routes to Roots events have established it as a valued community asset. Community plant sales have raised approximately £600 over the last two years, helping support ongoing planting and maintenance. The project has been featured extensively in the Round Hill Reporter newsletter, distributed quarterly to approximately 1,000 households. It has attracted wider recognition through local media coverage, civic engagement and environmental networks.

Building on this success, Round Hill Green Spaces has developed a wider programme of nature recovery, environmental volunteering and community-led greening. Current proposals include additional community planting, a new Pocket Park planter with integrated seating, street trees, bird and bat boxes, wildflower habitats, environmental education activities and community wellbeing events. Together, these initiatives seek to extend the benefits of the Pocket Park across the wider conservation area while creating new opportunities for residents to connect with nature and one another.

The influence of the project now extends beyond Round Hill itself. Community groups elsewhere in Brighton & Hove have approached Round Hill Green Spaces for advice on creating pocket parks and neighbourhood greening initiatives. Volunteers have shared experience and learning on consultation, fundraising, planning, project delivery and long-term stewardship. Following publicity surrounding the Pocket Park, thirteen community groups subsequently proposed pocket parks through the Better Brighton & Hove Fund community consultation process in late 2025.

The Pocket Park, therefore, represents more than the creation of the first publicly accessible community green space within the Round Hill Conservation Area. It has become a focal point for community participation, environmental improvement and neighbourhood stewardship, while helping inspire similar initiatives elsewhere in Brighton & Hove.

Section A – Community Participation



May 2026: The Round Hill Community Pocket Park. Developed and maintained by volunteers from the Round Hill Society, the Pocket Park has become a well-used community asset that brings people together while enhancing the local environment within the Round Hill Conservation Area.

The Round Hill Community Pocket Park represents the successful mobilisation of a neighbourhood to create its first publicly accessible community green space and establish a long-term programme of environmental improvement.

Round Hill Green Spaces was established in 2018 as the environmental and community greening subgroup of the Round Hill Society residents' association and operates under the Society's auspices. The group has presented its activities, plans and achievements at every Round Hill Society AGM since then. Through regular reporting, consultation and discussion, the group's activities remain directly accountable to residents through the Society's governance arrangements. The Pocket Park emerged from a shared recognition that Round Hill lacked public green space and that there were opportunities to improve the local environment through community action.

Community engagement has been central to the project's success. The Pocket Park proposal was discussed at residents' meetings between 2019 and 2022 and developed through extensive consultation with residents, councillors, council officers and local organisations. Communication about the Pocket Park has been maintained through multiple channels, including the online Round Hill Community Noticeboard, which reaches more than 800 residents; the Round Hill Reporter newsletter, delivered to approximately 1,000 households; and a dedicated Pocket Park Facebook page. Over the last six years, numerous newsletter articles have documented the project's evolution from initial concept through planning, fundraising, installation and ongoing stewardship. This has helped to build awareness, recruit volunteers and maintain community support.

The Pocket Park was delivered through volunteer leadership and community partnership rather than as a local authority project. Residents contributed to fundraising, planning, design development, planting and long-term maintenance. More than thirty volunteers now participate in watering, weeding, planting and seasonal gardening activities. Volunteer workdays provide opportunities for social interaction, community learning, and environmental stewardship while helping to engage residents who may lack access to private outdoor space, experience social isolation, or wish to become more involved in local community life.

The project demonstrates strong partnership working. Over more than five years, Round Hill Green Spaces worked closely with Brighton & Hove City Council's City Parks, Highways, Planning, Communities and Biodiversity teams, alongside local ward councillors, Brighton & Hove Buses, Brighton Wood Recycling Project, CPRE Sussex, Brighton & Hove Swifts, Sussex Bat Group, Sussex Ornithological Society and Sussex Biodiversity Records Centre. The group is also an active member of the Brighton & Hove Green Spaces Forum, Brighton & Hove Community Gardens Network, Brighton & Hove Food Partnership and the Weald to Waves nature recovery initiative.

The community has demonstrated a strong capacity to secure external investment. Following planning approval and extensive consultation, Round Hill Green Spaces secured a £13,500 UK Shared Prosperity Fund grant, £2,000 from Round Hill ward councillors' local funding allocations and a further approximately £4,000 from charitable trusts, local businesses and residents to deliver the Pocket Park. Building on this success, the group has subsequently submitted funding applications totalling approximately £42,000 to support nature recovery, habitat creation and green infrastructure improvements across the neighbourhood, including applications to the Better Brighton & Hove Fund and the National Lottery Community Fund – Environment Programme.

The influence of the project now extends beyond Round Hill itself. Community groups elsewhere in Brighton & Hove have approached Round Hill Green Spaces for advice on creating pocket parks and neighbourhood greening initiatives. Volunteers have shared their experiences of consultation, fundraising, planning, project delivery, and long-term stewardship through site visits, presentations, and informal mentoring. Following publicity surrounding the Pocket Park, thirteen community groups subsequently proposed pocket parks through the Better Brighton & Hove Fund community consultation process in late 2025. The project has therefore contributed not only to environmental improvement within Round Hill but also to the growth of community-led greening initiatives elsewhere in Brighton & Hove.



May 2026: Routes to Roots launch event. The Pocket Park welcomed Brighton & Hove Mayor Theresa Fowler, SSEIB judge Jean Griffin and representatives from community gardens across the city, highlighting its growing role within Brighton & Hove's wider community greening network.

Most importantly, the Pocket Park has become a catalyst for wider environmental action. What began as an effort to create a single community green space has evolved into a broader programme of nature recovery, environmental education and community-led greening across Round Hill. Plans include expanded community gardening sessions, wildlife activities, environmental volunteering opportunities, community planting schemes, wellbeing events and neighbourhood-wide biodiversity projects. The Pocket Park now acts as both a valued community asset and a focal point for wider participation in caring for shared green spaces.

Section B – Environmental Responsibility

The Round Hill Community Pocket Park was created in response to the absence of publicly accessible green space within the Round Hill Conservation Area and has become the foundation of a wider programme of nature recovery and environmental improvement.



July 2025: Prince's Crescent biodiversity planters. Community-led planting and stewardship have transformed a previously hard-surfaced streetscape into a vibrant green corridor that supports pollinators, enhances visual amenity, and contributes to environmental resilience within the Round Hill Conservation Area.

The project transformed a hard-surfaced area affected by pavement parking into a publicly accessible green space that now provides pollinator-friendly planting, community gardening opportunities and a focus for environmental learning. The scheme also improved the pedestrian environment around a busy bus stop and introduced new green infrastructure into

one of Brighton & Hove's most densely developed neighbourhoods. The creation of the Pocket Park represents a significant environmental intervention.

Environmental considerations informed every aspect of the design. Round Hill Green Spaces developed the Pocket Park in consultation with Brighton & Hove City Council's City Parks, Highways and Planning teams. Four large planters were introduced to create habitat, improve the public realm and provide opportunities for community participation in gardening and environmental stewardship.



April 2025: Construction of the Prince's Crescent biodiversity planters. The scheme was delivered through collaboration between local volunteers, contractors and project partners, transforming underused streetscape into community-managed green infrastructure.

The planting schedule was developed by Round Hill Green Spaces and agreed upon through the planning process. Species were selected specifically for the exposed roadside and hillside conditions of the site and combine flowering perennials, seasonal bulbs, herbs, and a pollinator-friendly planting designed to provide year-round interest, seasonal succession, and ecological benefit. Successful species have included verbena, hardy geraniums, erysimum and nepeta, all of which have performed well in the site's exposed conditions while providing extended flowering periods and valuable resources for pollinating insects. Plants were sourced from Garden Sage Nursery near Henfield, helping ensure access to species appropriate to local growing conditions and wildlife-supporting planting objectives.



May 2025: Community herb garden within the Round Hill Community Pocket Park. The shared herb planter encourages residents to engage directly with the planting, supports community food growing and demonstrates how biodiversity-friendly green infrastructure can also provide practical benefits for local people.

One planter was intentionally dedicated to community food growing through a shared herb garden. Clearly labelled herbs and "help yourself" signage encourage residents to interact directly with the planting and provide a practical example of community food growing within a highly urban setting. In contrast, the remaining planters combine ornamental and wildlife-friendly planting to maximise visual impact and ecological benefit.

Despite occupying a relatively small footprint, the Pocket Park now provides pollinator-friendly planting, community food-growing opportunities, environmental education and habitat resources in a neighbourhood that previously lacked publicly accessible green space. What was previously an area of little ecological value now supports pollinators and other beneficial invertebrates, increases floral resources for wildlife and provides residents with

daily contact with nature. Volunteers have observed regular use of the planting by bumblebees, hoverflies, butterflies and ladybirds, providing visible evidence of the habitat value created by the scheme. The project has also encouraged wildlife-friendly gardening throughout the neighbourhood and increased residents' awareness of local wildlife and habitat creation. Environmental learning is further supported by an on-site information hub that provides details of the project, planting scheme, and wildlife-friendly planting objectives.



Summer 2025: Evidence of biodiversity value. Pollinator-friendly planting now supports a range of beneficial insects, including bumblebees, hoverflies and ladybirds, demonstrating the habitat value created by the Pocket Park.

The planting scheme is actively monitored and managed by volunteers. Round Hill Green Spaces maintains records of all plants introduced into the Pocket Park, enabling the review of species performance, maintenance requirements, and environmental suitability over time. Experience from the first growing season helped identify species that were particularly successful in the exposed roadside environment and others that proved less suitable. Verbena, hardy geraniums, erysimum and nepeta all performed well and continue to form important elements of the planting scheme. Other plants provided useful learning opportunities. Some

pulmonaria developed mildew, possibly because watering practices left foliage damp for extended periods. Some artemisia suffered from blackfly infestation, potentially reflecting crowded growing conditions, while one hardy geranium was lost during an exceptionally wet period. Late-planted red lobelia also failed to re-establish. These observations informed the refresh of the planting scheme in Spring 2026, enabling volunteers to refine species selection, adjust planting density and improve maintenance practices. The Pocket Park, therefore, continues to evolve through a process of observation, learning and adaptive management.



May 2025: Early establishment of the Prince's Crescent biodiversity planters following installation. The planting scheme combined pollinator-friendly perennials, ornamental grasses and climate-resilient species selected to provide year-round interest and habitat value.

Sustainable watering arrangements have also been developed to support long-term maintenance of the Pocket Park. Two water butts have been installed, one in the side return of the Round Hill Pub and the other in a resident's front garden, helping reduce reliance on mains water while capturing rainfall for community use. In addition, volunteers are permitted to use an external tap in the car park of St Saviour's Court opposite the Pocket Park. These arrangements have helped establish a reliable watering system while strengthening relationships with residents and local businesses that support the project.

Environmental education forms an important part of the project's impact. Open Days, Community Garden Month, Routes to Roots, volunteer gardening sessions, wildlife activities and plant sales provide opportunities for residents to learn about pollinator-friendly gardening, habitat creation and nature recovery. The Pocket Park also incorporates a bespoke information hub containing information about the project and its planting scheme. Visitors can identify plant species, understand the environmental aims of the planting scheme and learn more about the development of the Pocket Park. The information hub helps transform the site from a planted space into a community learning resource while reinforcing the message that the Pocket Park was created and is maintained by residents.

The environmental significance of the Pocket Park extends well beyond its boundaries. Round Hill Green Spaces works closely with Brighton & Hove Swifts, Sussex Bat Group, Sussex Ornithological Society, Sussex Biodiversity Records Centre and CPRE Sussex while also participating in the Brighton & Hove Green Spaces Forum, Brighton & Hove Community Gardens Network, Brighton & Hove Food Partnership and the Weald to Waves nature recovery initiative. These partnerships connect local action within Round Hill to wider wildlife conservation and nature recovery programmes operating across Brighton & Hove and Sussex.

Round Hill Green Spaces has also engaged over several years with Brighton & Hove City Council and Bauer Media Outdoor regarding opportunities to introduce a green-roof bus shelter adjacent to the Pocket Park. Green-roof bus shelters have been installed elsewhere in the UK as part of wider biodiversity and urban greening programmes. While funding was unavailable when the proposal was revisited in late 2025, it remains under consideration. It reflects the group's ongoing commitment to extending biodiversity enhancement and green infrastructure beyond the Pocket Park's boundaries.

Building on the success of the Pocket Park, the group has developed proposals for additional community planting, a new Pocket Park planter with integrated seating, six new street trees, bird boxes, bat boxes, replacement planting and neighbourhood-wide distribution of native wildflower plants and seeds. These activities will be supported through volunteer gardening sessions, wildlife activities and community participation events designed to encourage long-term care of local green spaces and habitats. Together, these initiatives aim to create ecological connections and pollinator stepping stones throughout the conservation area.

The programme seeks not only to support wildlife and habitat creation but also to strengthen residents' connection with nature. Particular emphasis is placed on creating opportunities for participation by older residents, people without gardens, children and families, and residents seeking opportunities for local volunteering and community involvement.

The project's environmental influence extends beyond its direct impact within Round Hill. By demonstrating how a small-scale community intervention can successfully create habitat,

improve biodiversity and strengthen community participation, the Pocket Park has helped inspire similar initiatives elsewhere in Brighton & Hove. Knowledge sharing through environmental networks and direct support for other community groups has enabled the project's lessons to be shared more widely. This dissemination of good practice increases the project's contribution to nature recovery beyond the conservation area's immediate boundaries.

The Pocket Park demonstrates how community-led environmental action can support habitat creation, nature recovery, community volunteering and neighbourhood participation.

Section C – Gardening Achievement

The Round Hill Community Pocket Park demonstrates how thoughtful design, appropriate planting and sustained volunteer commitment can transform a problematic urban site into a valued community asset.



August 2025: Summer flowering within the Prince's Crescent biodiversity planters. Careful plant selection and ongoing volunteer stewardship have created a resilient, pollinator-friendly planting scheme that delivers biodiversity benefits and seasonal colour throughout the year.

Before the project, the site consisted almost entirely of hard surfacing and was frequently affected by pavement parking. Vehicles regularly occupied pedestrian space, reduced visibility around the bus stop, and detracted from the appearance of an important gateway into the Round Hill Conservation Area. The transformation of this location into a thriving community garden represents a significant achievement in gardening and placemaking.

The design sought to create the first publicly accessible community green space within the conservation area while maintaining accessibility and improving the quality of the public realm. Four large handcrafted timber planters were carefully positioned to accommodate wheelchair users, pushchairs and pedestrians while helping discourage pavement parking and improve the appearance of the site.

Round Hill Green Spaces developed the planters in consultation with Brighton & Hove City Council's City Parks, Highways and Planning teams to ensure they met accessibility, public realm and conservation area requirements. Brighton Wood Recycling Project translated these requirements into the final structures and undertook construction. The resulting planters provide a distinctive visual identity, complement the character of the conservation area, and successfully transform the site while creating opportunities for diverse planting and long-term maintenance.

Plant selection reflects both horticultural and ecological objectives. The planting schedule was developed by Round Hill Green Spaces and agreed upon through the planning process. Species were selected specifically for the exposed roadside and hillside conditions of the site and combine flowering perennials, seasonal bulbs, herbs, and a pollinator-friendly planting designed to provide year-round colour, seasonal succession, and lasting value for wildlife.

Successful species have included verbena, hardy geraniums, erysimum and nepeta, all of which have established well in the site's exposed conditions while providing extended flowering periods and seasonal interest. Plants were sourced from Garden Sage, a nursery near Henfield, helping ensure access to species suited to local growing conditions and the long-term aims of the planting scheme.

One planter is dedicated to a community herb garden, encouraging residents to interact directly with the planting and creating opportunities for community food growing. The remaining planters combine ornamental and wildlife-friendly species to provide year-round colour, habitat resources and visual interest.

The planting scheme is actively managed and refined by volunteers. Round Hill Green Spaces maintains records of all plants introduced into the Pocket Park, enabling performance to be reviewed over time. Experience from the first growing season helped identify which species were particularly resilient in the exposed roadside environment and which required modification or replacement. Some pulmonaria developed mildew, some artemisia suffered from blackfly infestation and one hardy geranium was lost following prolonged wet weather. A late planting of red lobelia also failed to return. These observations informed adjustments to species selection, planting density and maintenance practices during the Spring 2026 refresh of the planting scheme.



May 2025: Community herb garden. Residents are encouraged to harvest herbs for personal use, helping transform the Pocket Park from a planted space into a shared community resource.

These experiences helped volunteers better understand the site's particular conditions, including exposure to wind, periods of prolonged rainfall, watering requirements, planting density and the effects of regular public use. As a result, the Pocket Park continues to evolve through observation, experimentation and practical gardening experience. The Pocket Park occupies a highly visible and well-used urban location, and volunteers have learned that successful planting design must respond not only to environmental conditions but also to how people interact with the space, including occasional seating along planter edges and the wear associated with a busy public setting. The resulting learning informed the refresh of the planting scheme in Spring 2026 and continues to guide future planting decisions.

Long-term stewardship is supported by practical infrastructure developed by volunteers, including two rainwater-harvesting systems and agreed-upon access to a nearby water supply. These arrangements help ensure that planting can be maintained during dry periods and demonstrate the project's commitment to sustainable long-term management.

The Pocket Park also incorporates a bespoke information hub and sign designed by a Round Hill Green Spaces volunteer and constructed in partnership with a local carpenter. Positioned so that it is visible to pedestrians and passengers on passing buses, the sign identifies the site as a community garden and explains its purpose and origins. The information hub contains details of the planting scheme, enabling visitors to identify plant species, understand seasonal planting changes, and learn about the project's wildlife and community aims. Together, these features reinforce community ownership of the space and transform the Pocket Park into both a community learning resource and a community garden.



August 2025: Pocket Park Information Hub. Visitors can learn about the project, explore the planting scheme and identify species, helping transform the Pocket Park into a community learning resource as well as a community garden.

Plans for an additional planter with integrated seating reflect the ongoing evolution of the Pocket Park and the group's commitment to building on the experience gained since its installation. It builds upon features included within the original concept developed by Round Hill Green Spaces. The additional planter will increase planting capacity while creating opportunities for rest, conversation and community use, further strengthening the Pocket Park's role as both a green space and a community meeting place.

The project demonstrates creativity by combining multiple functions within a relatively small area. The Pocket Park serves simultaneously as a community garden, wildlife-friendly planting project, educational resource, gateway feature, placemaking initiative and public realm improvement. Few projects of this scale deliver such a wide range of environmental, social and aesthetic benefits.

Long-term maintenance is a particular strength. More than thirty volunteers participate in watering, weeding, replanting and seasonal maintenance activities. Their continued commitment has ensured the successful establishment of the planting and maintained a consistently high standard of presentation.

Perhaps the greatest gardening achievement is the transformation itself. A site previously associated with hard surfaces, pavement parking, and community concern has become a thriving, attractive community green space. The Pocket Park demonstrates how gardening can improve not only the appearance of a place but also its value for people and wildlife, its accessibility, its social function and its sense of identity. It has become both a valued local asset and a visible symbol of what sustained community action can achieve.

Evidence of Achievement at a Glance

Area	Evidence
Community leadership	Round Hill Green Spaces was established in 2018 as the environmental and community greening subgroup of the Round Hill Society.
Community governance	The project operates under the auspices of the Round Hill Society and reports annually at the Society's AGM.
Long-term commitment	5½ years of project development, consultation, fundraising and partnership working before installation.
Public green space creation	First publicly accessible community green space in the Round Hill Conservation Area.
Community accountability	Presentations and reporting at every Round Hill Society AGM since 2018.
Community engagement	Round Hill Community Noticeboard reaching 800+ residents.
Community communication	Round Hill Reporter was distributed to approximately 1,000 households, with numerous Pocket Park articles published over six years.
Volunteer participation	More than 30 active volunteers involved in planning, planting, maintenance and stewardship.
Community events	Pocket Park Open Days, Community Garden Month, Routes to Roots and neighbourhood planting activities.
Open Day attendance	c.30 visitors (2025, despite weather-related rescheduling); 83 visitors (2026)
Community fundraising	Plant sales raised approximately £600 over two years.
Community-led design	Planters and planting scheme designed by Round Hill Green Spaces in partnership with Brighton & Hove City Council.
External funding secured	£13,500 UK Shared Prosperity Fund grant.
Ward councillor support	£2,000 secured through Round Hill ward councillors' local funding allocations.
Additional fundraising	Approximately £4,000 secured from charitable trusts, local businesses and residents.

Area	Evidence
Total pre-installation funding raised	Approximately £19,500 secured to deliver the Pocket Park.
Physical investment delivered	Four handcrafted planters represent an investment of approximately £17,000.
Future investment sought	Funding applications totalling approximately £42,000 have been submitted to support nature recovery, habitat creation and community-led greening.
Biodiversity enhancement	Pollinator-friendly planting, community herb garden and wildlife-supporting habitats.
Evidence-based planting	Planting schedule developed and agreed upon through the planning process.
Successful species	Verbena, hardy geraniums, erysimum and nepeta are performing successfully in exposed roadside conditions.
Adaptive management	Planting records are maintained, and the planting scheme is refined following first-year monitoring and performance reviews.
Site-specific learning	Planting adapted in response to wind exposure, rainfall, watering practices, planting density and patterns of public use.
Sustainable water management	Two water butts were installed, and local water supply agreements were established to support long-term maintenance.
Environmental education	Information hub explaining the Pocket Park, planting scheme and biodiversity objectives.
Local sourcing	Plants sourced from Garden Sage Nursery near Henfield.
Future biodiversity programme	Additional planter with seating, street trees, bird boxes, bat boxes, wildflower habitats and community planting initiatives.
Environmental partnerships	Brighton & Hove Green Spaces Forum, Community Gardens Network, Food Partnership, and Weald to Waves.
Conservation partnerships	Brighton & Hove Swifts, Sussex Bat Group, Sussex Ornithological Society, Sussex Biodiversity Records Centre and CPRE Sussex.
Civic recognition	Routes to Roots launch event attended by Brighton & Hove Mayor Theresa Fowler, SSEIB judge Jean Griffin and Round Hill ward councillors Pete West and Raphael Hill.
Political recognition	Visit by Brighton Pavilion MP Siân Berry (2025).

Area	Evidence
Media recognition	Coverage in Brighton & Hove News and extensive coverage in the Round Hill Reporter.
Knowledge sharing	Advice provided to community groups on consultation, fundraising, planning, project delivery and stewardship.
Legacy and influence	Thirteen community groups subsequently proposed pocket parks through the Better Brighton & Hove Fund process.
Wider impact	Local action connected to city-wide and Sussex-wide biodiversity and nature recovery initiatives.

Appendix A – Community Participation: Evidence Table

Evidence	Description
Round Hill Society governance records	Evidence that Round Hill Green Spaces operates under the auspices of the Round Hill Society and reports annually through the Society's AGM.
Round Hill Society AGM records (2018–present)	Annual presentations and reports demonstrating ongoing community engagement, accountability and project development.
Residents' meetings (2019–2022)	Evidence of consultation and community involvement in the development of Pocket Park proposals.
Round Hill Community Noticeboard	Community communications reach more than 800 residents.
Round Hill Reporter newsletters	Extensive coverage of project development, fundraising, installation and stewardship distributed to approximately 1,000 households.
Volunteer records and workday photographs	Evidence of more than 30 volunteers participating in planning, planting, maintenance and stewardship activities.
Partnership correspondence and project documentation	Evidence of collaboration with Brighton & Hove City Council, ward councillors, environmental organisations and community partners.
UK Shared Prosperity Fund grant award	Confirmation of £13,500 external funding secured for project delivery.
Ward councillor funding	£2,000 secured through Round Hill ward councillors' local funding allocations.
Additional fundraising records	Evidence of approximately £4,000 raised from charitable trusts, local businesses and residents.
Future funding applications	Applications totalling approximately £42,000 submitted to support biodiversity enhancement and neighbourhood greening, including proposals to the Better Brighton & Hove Fund and National Lottery Community Fund – Environment Programme.
Open Day and community event records	Attendance figures, photographs and publicity from Pocket Park Open Days, Community Garden Month, Routes to Roots and neighbourhood greening activities.
Brighton & Hove News coverage	Media coverage demonstrates wider public recognition and community interest.

Evidence	Description
Routes to Roots launch event	Attendance by Brighton & Hove Mayor Theresa Fowler, SSEIB judge Jean Griffin, Round Hill ward councillors Pete West and Raphael Hill, and representatives of community gardens from across the city.
Visit by MP Siân Berry	Photographs and records that demonstrate broader civic and political engagement with the project.
Community plant sale records	Evidence of community fundraising and participation activities generating approximately £600 over two years.
Requests from other community groups	Correspondence, site visits and advice provided to groups seeking to develop similar pocket parks and community greening projects.
Better Brighton & Hove Fund consultation outcomes	Evidence that thirteen community groups subsequently proposed pocket parks following project publicity, knowledge-sharing and wider community engagement.

Appendix B – Environmental Responsibility, Evidence Table

Evidence	Description
Design and Access Statement	Evidence of biodiversity-led design, environmental objectives, and community-led planning was agreed upon during the planning process.
Approved planting schedule	Planting scheme developed by Round Hill Green Spaces and approved as part of the Pocket Park proposal.
Garden Sage Nursery invoices	Evidence of sourcing appropriate species from a specialist local nursery
Planting records	Complete records of species introduced into the Pocket Park and monitored over time
Plant performance monitoring records	Evidence of site-specific learning, species assessment and adaptive management following the first growing season
Spring 2026 planting refresh	Evidence of refinement of planting based on observed performance, environmental conditions and maintenance experience.
Community herb garden	Dedicated planter supporting community food growing, engagement with planting and environmental education and public engagement through a shared herb garden available for residents' use.
Information hub and planting guide	Pocket Park overview, planting schedule and environmental interpretation materials available for visitors and volunteers.
Pollinator and wildlife observations	Photographic evidence of bees, butterflies, and other invertebrates using Pocket Park planting, demonstrating habitat value and ecological function.
Volunteer gardening records	Evidence of ongoing stewardship, maintenance and environmental volunteering activities.
Sustainable water management infrastructure	Two water butts and agreed access to a nearby water supply supporting long-term maintenance and reduced reliance on mains water.
Open Day, Community Garden Month and Routes to Roots events	Public engagement and environmental education activities promoting biodiversity awareness and nature recovery.
Wildlife-friendly planting	Pollinator-supporting species, seasonal succession, nectar-rich

Evidence	Description
scheme	planting and biodiversity enhancement.
Adaptive management evidence	Learning from plant performance, including responses to mildew, blackfly, weather exposure, planting density and watering practices.
Nature recovery partnerships	Collaboration with Brighton & Hove Swifts, Sussex Bat Group, Sussex Ornithological Society, Sussex Biodiversity Records Centre and CPRE Sussex.
Green infrastructure advocacy	Long-term engagement with Brighton & Hove City Council and Bauer Media Outdoor to explore installation of a green-roof bus shelter adjacent to the Pocket Park, demonstrating continued community leadership in biodiversity enhancement and public-realm greening.
Environmental network memberships	Participation in Brighton & Hove Green Spaces Forum, Community Gardens Network, Brighton & Hove Food Partnership and Weald to Waves.
Biodiversity expansion proposals	Plans for street trees, bird boxes, bat boxes, wildflower habitats and community planting initiatives.
Knowledge-sharing activities	Advice and support are provided to community groups undertaking environmental and greening projects.
Better Brighton & Hove Fund consultation outcomes	Evidence of wider influence through thirteen subsequent pocket park proposals inspired by the Round Hill project.

Appendix C – Gardening Achievement, Evidence Table

Evidence	Description
Before and after photographs	Evidence of transformation from a hard-surfaced area affected by pavement parking into a thriving community garden.
Design and Access Statement	Community-led design agreed with Brighton & Hove City Council's City Parks, Highways and Planning teams.
Planter design documentation	Evidence of accessibility, placemaking, conservation area considerations and public realm improvements.
Brighton Wood Recycling Project records	Construction and installation of four handcrafted timber planters forming the centrepiece of the Pocket Park.
Approved planting schedule	Evidence of planned horticultural, aesthetic and biodiversity objectives.
Garden Sage Nursery invoices	Local sourcing of appropriate species suited to site conditions and project objectives.
Community herb garden	Community food-growing element integrated within the planting scheme.
Planting records	Complete record of species introduced into the Pocket Park and their subsequent performance.
Plant performance monitoring records	Evidence of site-specific learning and horticultural decision-making informed by experience.
Spring 2026 planting refresh	Evidence of adaptive management and refinement of planting following the first growing season.
Adaptive management evidence	Learning from plant performance, including responses to mildew, blackfly infestation, rainfall, wind exposure, planting density and public use.
Watering infrastructure	Two water butts and community-supported watering arrangements supporting sustainable long-term maintenance.
Information hub and Pocket Park sign	Community interpretation, environmental education and placemaking features are designed to reinforce community ownership.
Volunteer maintenance	Evidence of ongoing gardening, watering, replanting and

Evidence	Description
records	stewardship activities by more than 30 volunteers.
Open Day photographs	Evidence of public engagement with the garden and its role as a community asset.
Routes to Roots and Community Garden Month events	Evidence of the Pocket Park functioning as a venue for environmental education, gardening and community participation.
Proposed planter with integrated seating	Continued development and enhancement of the Pocket Park based on community use and experience.
Photographic record of seasonal development	Evidence of successful establishment, maturation and ongoing improvement of the planting scheme.

Appendix D – Project Timeline

Date	Milestone
2018	Round Hill Green Spaces was established as the environmental and community greening subgroup of the Round Hill Society.
2018–2019	Initial discussions begin regarding opportunities to increase publicly accessible green space within the Round Hill Conservation Area.
2019–2022	Pocket Park proposals developed through consultation with residents, councillors, Brighton & Hove City Council officers and local organisations.
2022–2024	Detailed design development undertaken in partnership with Brighton & Hove City Council's City Parks, Highways and Planning teams.
2023–2025	The fundraising programme secured support from charitable trusts, local businesses, residents, ward councillors, and external funding programmes.
2024	Planning approval secured for the Round Hill Community Pocket Park.
Early 2025	£13,500 UK Shared Prosperity Fund grant awarded. Additional funding secured through the Round Hill ward councillors and community fundraising.
April 2025	Installation of four handcrafted biodiversity planters and creation of the Round Hill Community Pocket Park.
May 2025	Community herb garden established and volunteer maintenance programme launched.
May–September 2025	Volunteer-led watering, planting, maintenance and establishment period. Community herb garden launched.
Late 2025	Community plant sales, Open Day activities and neighbourhood engagement events expanded. Green-roof bus shelter proposal revisited with Brighton & Hove City Council and Bauer Media Outdoor.
Winter 2025–26	Monitoring of plant performance, biodiversity observations and review of maintenance practices.
Spring 2026	Refresh of the planting scheme informed by first-year monitoring and adaptive management.
May 2026	Routes to Roots launch event hosted at the Pocket Park, attended by Brighton & Hove Mayor Theresa Fowler, SSEIB judge Jean Griffin and representatives of community gardens from across the city.

Date	Milestone
June 2026	Pocket Park has Open Days as part of Routes to Roots Brighton & Hove Community Garden Month and Round Hill Open Gardens.
2026–2027 (planned)	Development of proposals for an additional Pocket Park planter with integrated seating, six new street trees, bird boxes, bat boxes, wildflower habitats and wider neighbourhood greening initiatives.

Appendix E – Transformation, Impact and Recognition

E1: 2020–2022. Prince's Crescent before the creation of the Round Hill Community Pocket Park. The area was dominated by hard surfacing and was frequently affected by pavement parking, with limited planting, biodiversity value, community use or visual amenity.



E2: April 2025. Volunteers filling the Pocket Park planters during installation. Community participation was central to project delivery and continues to underpin long-term stewardship.



E3: May 2026. Brighton & Hove Mayor Theresa Fowler and SSEIB judge Jean Griffin visiting the Pocket Park during the Routes to Roots launch event. The project has attracted growing recognition for its contribution to community greening and environmental improvement.



E4: May 2025. Community participation in the Pocket Park. Residents of different ages have contributed to planting, watering and ongoing maintenance of the site since its establishment in 2025.

