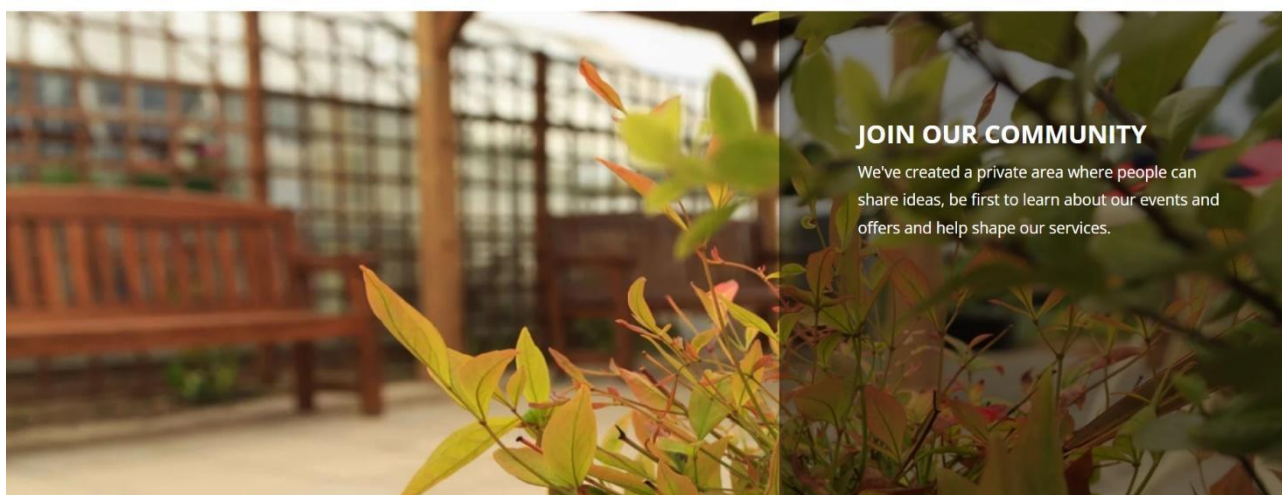


# Meadow Well Connected: New Habitats - Case Study

This is a case study for Going Green Together written by Mandi Cresswell from [Meadow Well Connected](#).



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## New habitats, new vision

Meadow Well Connected is fortunate to have over five acres of green space around our building. The land is the site of an old reservoir and has been used by the charity for several years to encourage people to grow and connect with the land. It has been a challenge to maintain the land effectively with a small team but in 2020 we employed a new Garden Lead, Andy Skinner, to develop a vision for the space to take us forward positively.

In a matter of weeks since starting this new role, we were hit by the Covid-19 pandemic and Andy was pretty much left to his own devices whilst the centre closed, and most of the staff were furloughed. Despite this, Andy used the time to carefully plan and think about his ambitions for the gardens. From May 2020 we were able to return to working outdoors and attracted 26 new garden volunteers to help with this work.

We were successful with capital funding from the North East Local Enterprise Partnership which has provided the resources to make some big changes in the garden with a focus on improving the environment and habitats to attract more birds and insects. Our resident beekeeping project – Pure Buzzin’ – has also expanded during this time.

We have been able to plant over 400 native tree species which will provide a small woodland in the next 15-20 years. We have changed the way we work the land using permaculture principles which are better for the environment and require fewer people to maintain the space. We have completely renovated our pond which now is a habitat for toads, newts and insects as well as providing water for bees and birds. The pond has a dipping platform where we plan to encourage local people to visit and learn about this important habitat.

Our ambition for the space is that it will have a positive impact on the environment whilst providing a welcoming, calm green space that local residents can enjoy for many years to come.

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