

ADEPT President's Awards 2025

Entry form

Main contact name	Carolyn McKenzie
Email	carolyn.mckenzie@surreycc.gov.uk
Phone Number	(07445) 349846
Award category	Shaping Places for People
Project Title	Horsall Common - Creating Positive out of Negative
Local authority entrant	Surrey County Council
Partner/s if applicable	Woking Council Thames Water, Horsall Common Society, local community

Headline summary (150 characters max.)

Multifunctional NFM:16mill Lts water storage; improved biodiversity - wetland, mixed woodland; new community asset; decrease in antisocial behaviour

Please note we need at least one supporting image per award submission. Upload your image/s below.



Horsell Common SFRPB without video....pdf

Shaping places for people: How was this project an innovative response to a significant concern? (150 words max.)

Surrey County Council worked with the Horsell Common Preservation Society & Woking Borough Council to help prevent flash flooding of properties around Horsell Common in Woking which have experienced significant flooding over the past six years. To help address this, three pools have been constructed with a combined capacity of over 16 million litres to store excess rainwater. Existing ditches have been upgraded. Underground chambers that amphibians and reptiles use throughout the winter have also been installed. New footpaths and boardwalks have been constructed to provide better access to the site all year round facilitating safe routes to the local school. 3000 trees planted and wildflower planting across the site. The project moved away from a traditional hard infrastructure to create a whole new habitat, improving the community infrastructure and tackling anti social behaviour. Surrey, Woking BC, the community and local business came together to maximise positive outcomes.

Shaping places for people: Please give evidence of the quality of outcomes obtained from the project (for example improved/more efficient services, increased inclusivity for residents, futureproofing the service). (150 words max.)

Significant flood risk reduction - storage for 16million litres of water. New habitat created in place of previous piece of wasteland prone to anti social behaviour - with 3000 trees planted - moving from a monoculture to a biodiverse wetland, mixed woodland and wildflower planting. An all year round safe route to school was created, previously only accessible in the summer months. A beautiful green space in the middle of an urban area. The project involved a range of groups, school children, residents and a local business - bringing the community together. Flood resilience as increased considerably, with significant

avoided cost and disruption to the economy and community due to flooding. The multiple outcomes achieved as a result of the project provided very good value for money and significant benefits across different service areas. A project loved by the community and wildlife alike.

Shaping places for people: Please give evidence of the level of collaboration between place and people services (both within the council and with external partners/providers). (150 words max.)

This was a joint project between our PLACE Teams, Education, health and our community teams as well as between the local contractor who was very invested, the locally Horsall Common preservation society who helped with the design and implementation.

Shaping places for people: Please give evidence of the level of buy-in to the project or its goals from members of the local community, health and social care and external organisations. (150 words max.)

See presentation attached which gives evidence of collaboration and also use of volunteers to plant trees and help with recreation of the natural environment.

Shaping places for people: Please give evidence of the use or consideration of new sources of investment to fund projects. (150 words max.)

This was SCC funding but supplemented by volunteer resources.

All categories: please add anything else that supports your award entry

Please see presentation

This was a truly multifunctional flood scheme.