

Goscote Greenacres Community Gardens, Walsall – support from Cadent Gas Summer 2017

Five years ago, the Goscote Greenacres Community Garden project was set up by Walsall Council Adult Social Care service in partnership with Walsall Adult Community College to support adults with physical and learning disabilities, as well as address issues such as isolation and loneliness amongst the elderly.

The site is also used by residents, school groups and others from social care and inclusion communities to encourage local people who share common interests and experiences to grow their own produce by coming together in a safe, interesting and social environment.

Project

Cadent Gas were undergoing a programme of employee volunteering with Business in the Community in the West Midlands and North West where their staff took part in a number of meaningful community assignments. The task they were asked to complete at Goscote was to replace a water harvesting system with a pump to extract water from the adjacent canal. Tanks run out of water during prolonged times without rain and the gardens could no longer afford to top the water up from the mains. They were granted permission from Severn Trent, Environment Agency and Canal Trust to extract canal water. Cadent brought in workers with specialist equipment and machinery to dig and lay the pipeline from the canal to the water tanks without damaging the pathway that the pipe had to go under. Severn Trent donated the water pump and a local electrician helped install the pump. Now the gardens can enjoy free water to keep the crops going and enable vital funds to be protected to achieve the social aims of the site. A true collaboration for the greater good!

Feedback from Goscote Greenacres:

Dear Michael, Thank you for the hard work undertaken by your team this week on the rain water harvesting canal top up. We would never have been able to afford to get this without your assistance; it ensures our independence from the council and enables us to have access to water for the gardens at no costs for the foreseeable future. The lads have worked hard this week and it is greatly appreciated everything done by your team. Paul Mason, Goscote Green Acres

Comment from Cadent:

Our Team enjoyed being given the opportunity to give back to our local community with such a worthwhile project helping them to save up to £6000 a year on water. Michael Ball, Cadent

The future for Goscote Greenacres Community Garden Project

Until now, the project has received its funding direct from the local authority. Volunteers at the community garden project in Walsall are celebrating after securing National Lottery money totalling £360,313 through the Big Lottery Fund.

With support from the Big Lottery Fund now guaranteed, the charitable committee that oversees the initiative can now move forward indecently from the Council with its plans to further develop the grounds surrounding the Walsall Council's Goscote Centre.