



A volunteer-led community gardening initiative in Sudbury, Brent. Tackling local problems, enhancing biodiversity and improving local green spaces while we keep healthy & social(ly distanced).

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Sudbury Town Station Wins DEFRA Award For Bee Friendliness

Sudbury Town station in Sudbury, Brent, has been awarded a Bees' Needs Award 2020 by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA).

A project to transform the long-forgotten planters along the platforms of Sudbury Town station has been recognised for its contribution to making the environment more bee friendly by providing food and a home for pollinating insects.

Bringing new life to Sudbury Town station, this award-winning project supplements Brent Council's internationally acclaimed 'Bee Corridor' and the Bee Friendly Trust's growing network of bee-friendly tube and rail stations across London and the UK.

The partnership to revitalise Sudbury Town station's forgotten planters includes:

- Transport for London;
- Bee Friendly Trust;
- Brent Council;
- Sudbury Community Gardeners.

The ground operation to transform the station and provide bees and pollinators with year-round forage and habitat has been carried out by local group Sudbury Community Gardeners, who have organised regular gardening sessions, brought along tools, and contributed plants.

The Bee Friendly Trust prepped the site, donated a ton of manure, and provided bee-friendly plants, resources and equipment. TfL and their station staff have facilitated volunteers' access.

Sudbury's three local councillors, Cllr Thomas Stephens, Cllr Mary Daly and Cllr Saqib Butt, and Brent Council have also been very supportive of this project and the group's wider work.



Ruaidhrí Carroll, Sudbury Community Gardeners volunteer and coordinator, said:

It's absolutely fantastic news! When we partnered up with the Bee Friendly Trust on the station, we'd only really set out to cheer up commuters and give our local wildlife a boost.

Along with our other local projects, community gardening at the station has been an excellent way for all of us to keep active, stay social and enjoy a new hobby during the pandemic.

This recognition of all our volunteers' hard work is a delightfully welcome surprise.

Cllr Thomas Stephens, Sudbury councillor and Sudbury Community Gardeners volunteer and coordinator, said:

This is truly marvellous news. In this difficult year, supporting and volunteering with Sudbury Community Gardeners has been a real pleasure for Mary, Saqib and myself, as Sudbury's three local councillors, and for Brent Council.

Our volunteers definitely deserve the recognition this award brings for all of their dedicated commitment and wonderful work, without which this project would never have been possible.

I look forward to getting stuck into our other local projects in Perkin Close, Maybank Avenue and Priory Close again come springtime.

Notes for editors

Sudbury Community Gardeners is a volunteer-led community greening initiative in Sudbury, Brent which was established in 2019 to improve local green spaces and enhance biodiversity. The station is the group's fourth project, following transformations of neglected public land in Sudbury including Perkin Close, Maybank Avenue and Priory Close.

Brent's seven-mile 'bee corridor' received widespread coverage in 2019 from outlets including [the BBC](#), [Evening Standard](#), [The Independent](#), [EcoWatch](#) and [Global Citizen](#). Earlier this year, [The Brent & Kilburn Times](#) reported on Brent Council's expansion of the bee corridor.

The Bee Friendly Trust is working with railway authorities, community rail partnerships, and local groups across the UK to install bee-friendly flowering planters, fruit tree orchards and micro wildlife gardens on railway station platforms like Sudbury Town.

Facts about bees

- Threats to UK bees populations include: habitat loss; climate change; pesticides; pests and disease; invasive species. *Source: [Friends of the Earth](#).*
- Almost 90% of wild plants and 75% of leading global crops depend on animal pollination. *Source: [WWF](#).*
- An estimated $\frac{1}{3}$ of the human diet depends on pollinators. *Source: [McGregor, 1976, referenced here](#).*
- There are about 250 species of bees. *Source: [BBC](#).*
- Other than honey, bees also produce beeswax, bee bread and royal jelly. *Source: [BBC](#).*

How we can all help our bees

- Things anyone with any outdoor space, even as little as a window ledge, can do:
 - Grow some bee-friendly plants ([inspiration from the Royal Horticultural Society](#))
- Things anyone with a bit more outdoor space can do to help local pollinators thrive:
 - Grow more flowers, shrubs and trees
 - Let your garden grow wild
 - Cut your grass less often
 - Don't disturb insect nest and hibernation spots
 - Think carefully about whether to use pesticides

Source: [Bumblebee Conservation Trust](#).