

Wharton Park

Social Value Case Study





62

Students received Stay Safe talks



30

Primary Students participated in our Get into STEM programme



24

Durham based Apprentices recruited



539

Students received Building My Skills



10

Work experience placements advertised



£998

Donated via Esh Communities

Wharton Park

Wharton Park is one of the oldest parks in the north east and includes a Grade II listed battery that overlooks Durham Railway Station, the viaduct, castle and cathedral.

The restoration of the existing Grade II listed battery was one of the main challenges and a sensitive approach was required to effectively restore the feature.

Donated to the people of Durham in 1858 and the £3m rejuvenation project to its 4.3 hectares was to provide a valuable community resource located within the centre of Durham in the hopes of restoring its popularity and value. The park rejuvenation was funded by a £2.45m grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund and the Big Lottery Fund, with Durham Council providing an additional £600k worth of funding.

Get into STEM

'Get into STEM' is an exciting programme developed to address the Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics (STEM) skills gap in the built environment and introduce primary school students to STEM careers. Each kit is filled with innovative construction themed items and lesson plans. The kit includes child sized PPE, construction themed books, foam bricks, model buildings and design tools.

'Get into STEM' kits are provided to schools free of charge for a 2-week period and align with the Early Years Foundation Studies and Key Stage 1 curriculum. Framwellgate Moor Primary school (2 miles from site) received our kit for a two-week period giving 30 of their Year One students access to the resources.

Site Safety Talks

This project presented a great opportunity to roll out our 'Stay Safe' campaign in the local community to raise awareness of what happens behind the site hoardings and highlight the dangers of construction sites.

We engaged with 62 pupils at Framwellgate Moor Primary School by delivering our site safety talk. The presentation covered the key dangers of construction sites, provided opportunities for students to dress up in personal protection equipment (PPE) and concluded with an interactive quiz.

This a great opportunity to promote our 'Everyone Safely Home' campaign to local residents and be a 'Considerate Constructor'.



Apprentices

We provide a bespoke apprenticeship programme via Esh Academy, our in-house apprenticeship programme. During the project, we recruited 24 Durham based apprentices, 12 of which lived within 5 miles of the site. They are studying courses including Construction Engineering, Plumbing & heating, Construction Management, Quantity Surveying, Bricklaying, Business & Administration, Carpentry & Joinery, Fencing, General Construction, Multi Skilled Operations, and Plastering.

Work Experience

We worked closely with Durham County Council to advertise 10 work experience opportunities. Out of the 10 placements advertised, 6 individuals from New College Durham and the local Job Centre Plus took up the opportunity in trades including Joinery, Brick Laying, and Electrical.

We are passionate about developing the workforce of the future helping students develop an insight into the skills and attitudes required by business and to raise their awareness of career opportunities within the construction sector.

Charitable Provision

As part of the project we awarded £998 to the Learning Library in Durham via our Esh Communities scheme. The learning Library is a registered charity which loans out toys and specialist equipment free of charge to children with special needs and adults with learning difficulties.

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We are truly delighted that Esh Communities have awarded us £998 for new sensory items. Our members are all children and adults with learning difficulties or special needs and they get so much enjoyment from sensory items. The grant from Esh Communities will enable us to purchase additional stock and therefore enrich the lives of many more of our members. Thank you so much on their behalf and on behalf of all the management and staff at the Learning Centre.”

Building My Skills

Many young people are leaving school without considering their career options or skills needed to secure employment. Building My Skills is a free, award-winning employability skills programme providing secondary school students with an introduction to the world of work.

This is achieved by partnering with over 100 businesses who deliver 5 x 1 hour timetabled sessions to a whole year group, providing insight into their sector, transferable skills and support the completion of 'employability portfolio' tasks. Students who complete all tasks are invited to mock interviews, in turn promising employment opportunities.

Three local schools received the programme including; Framwellgate School Durham, Park View School and Consett Academy.



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