TODMORDEN TOWN COUNCIL

From	Leanne Hickenbottom-Marriott : Community Support Officer
To	Climate Emergency Committee
Tel No	07955282562
Email	Community@todmorden-tc.gov.uk
Date	18th November 2026
Subject	Climate Committee : Bio-diversity project - update report



Part of the community Support role has been to support the Vale Gardeners to develop their committee, following the adoption of a constitution. The Committee has now extended to four people and has a bank account. An open meeting was held on the 30th September for gardeners and local community members. The aim of the meeting was to invite ideas and suggestions for the future and share the planned work of the Bio-diversity project. This was received positively.

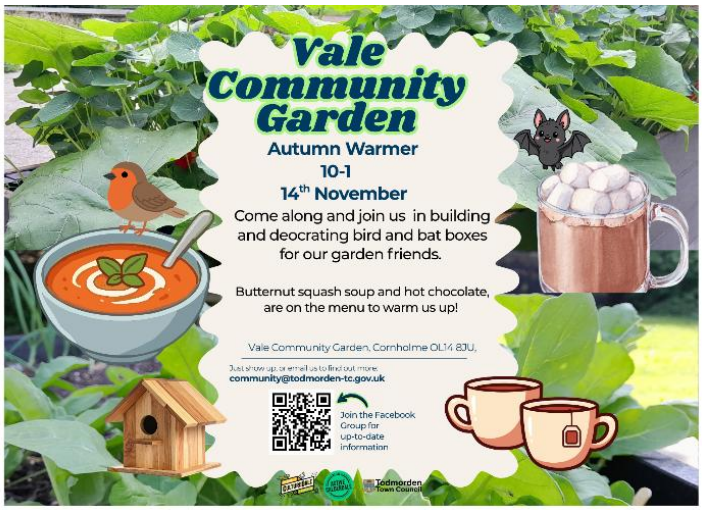
Biodiversity Education Area

Group discussions have explored how to help people protect and respect their local environment and make choices that benefit the climate. Dog fouling remains a recurring concern in the community garden: it is an environmental offence, creates an unpleasant environment and poses hazards to those who use and maintain the space.

A discussion has taken place with a small group of Cornholme children who regularly use the space, to collate ideas and visuals that would complement signage regarding this issue. This will hopefully become one of the four signs to be funded by the project.

Work is underway on fostering links with Cornholme Junior, Infant & Nursery school to explore forest school opportunities and joint working.

The first of four seasonal bio-diversity events will take place on 14th November. The focus will be spending time in the garden and completing a community build of bat boxes, nesting boxes and the siting of a hedgehog hotel. People can decorate the boxes with non-toxic, animal friendly inks, creating a connection between humans and garden wildlife.



We will be serving seasonal veg soup, hot chocolate and vegan parkin at the gathering, as part of our 'Autumn Warm Up' session.

The next seasonal biodiversity events will take place on:

- 13 February 2027 (Winter)
- 10 April 2027 (Spring)
- 10 July 2027 (Summer)

Rainwater Harvesting

Following discussion with a forest management consultant, the optimum location of the water harvesting structure has been agreed. We are now in discussions with Galliford Try, the contractors delivering the Castle Hill School rebuild, to start work on the build as part of their corporate social responsibility activities.

Growing Interest

To attract and recruit additional gardeners and community partners into the Vale Community Garden, the dates for gardening sessions have been planned a year in advance.

