



# LOVE SOLIHULL

## Employee Volunteering

### Supporting communities to make a difference



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## INTRODUCTION

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Solihull is one of the most vibrant and successful boroughs in the UK and has been hugely successful in encouraging businesses to invest here. Solihull is seen as an attractive place to live, visit and work, our green spaces are a key factor in achieving this.

We currently have 15 Green Flag park awards in Solihull, the award recognises and rewards well managed parks and green spaces, setting the benchmark standard across the UK and the world.

Retaining the flags is no walk in the park, it is a real team effort, and can only be achieved by working closely with local community groups, volunteers and local businesses to keep these open spaces special.

Green spaces are also known for their vast number of benefits hence why volunteering with Love Solihull makes a real difference. Businesses like yours can help to keep those green spaces beautiful and bursting with life every day. With limited funds, we rely on the valuable time and energy devoted by teams of volunteers to achieve our ambitious improvements for local communities. Without this support our plans would not be fully realised.



Jaguar Land Rover Shirley Park September 2018

## Benefits for you and your employees

Love Solihull's environmental projects are very popular with local businesses who want to make a difference to the borough they work in. There are many team building tools available but few are as satisfying, and widely beneficial as a community challenge. Connecting with a local community based project can provide both employers and teams with many benefits.

### Our projects encourage:-

- Increased environmental awareness.
- A sense of achievement at a personal and team level.
- Making a real difference to local communities.
- Improved employee health and wellbeing.
- Getting staff out from behind their desks, giving them a chance to breath.
- Demonstrating your company's CSR commitment and values.
- Increased team working and better working relationships with colleagues.
- Provide and demonstrate the knowledge, values, attitudes, skills, and behaviours that help people to make informed and responsible decisions.



PriceWaterhouseCooper at 1st Solihull Scouts May 2018



## How it all works

On a volunteering day, your team will get stuck into a practical outdoor activity.

Tasks will include improvements such as painting playgrounds & benches, pruning, path maintenance and construction, habitat management, gardening and litter picking.

We can host groups of between 8-40 individuals. If your team have a background in construction, design and engineering and are keen to share your skills and experience, just let us know and we can match you to a suitable project.

### What we will provide

- Team leader project briefing ahead of the day
- Appropriate co-ordination throughout the project.
- Undertake a risk assessment..
- Tools and equipment, including appropriate PPE where specified.
- Indemnity insurance.
- A fun, rewarding and morale boosting days work, making a real difference to local communities and the health and wellbeing of your staff.

### What we need from you

- Appropriate outdoor clothing, sturdy footwear and good quality gardening gloves.
- Bring your own lunch & refreshments.
- No experience necessary, just a willingness to get stuck in and have fun!

Whilst participation in our volunteering activities is free, many of the projects require materials or extra tools and equipment, for which we may request a contribution from your organisation to purchase. If funding is required for a project, this will be stated in the project brief.



Rolls Royce Community Litter Pick July 2018

## What our corporate volunteers say.....

All participants have given fantastic feedback and have found it extremely rewarding.



### Kier, Malvern Park

'It was worlds apart from a day in the office, so the contrast was lovely. Everyone got stuck into the work and felt that they had achieved something by the end of the day'.

*Anju, Business Support, Kier*



### Secure Trust, Oak Cottage School

It's amazing to look back and see just how much we achieved. It's the first gardening project we've taken on and was quite some task, but I know the team, although exhausted, left feeling a massive sense of achievement'.

*Penny Conlon, Head of Compliance,,  
Secure Trust Bank*



### Npower, Lavender Hall Park

Just writing to say a big thank you for your time and guidance yesterday during the team-volunteering day. We all had a super great time and we hope the work we have done met your expectations (you did give us 10/10 so don't change your mind now!)

*Garinder from Npower*



## The Green Organisation

Love Solihull achievements have recently been recognised at the [Green Apple Environment Awards](#) ceremony, which took place at the Houses of Parliament.

The awards are run by the Green Organisation and reward organisations that work with the public to promote sustainability and environmentally friendly practices.

Love Solihull's work supporting local businesses and environmental campaigns within the borough meant we were awarded gold in the Environmental Best Practice Local Authority category.

Your project could also lead to an award for your company.

To find out more about recent projects we have supported please visit our Twitter page

