



L to R: Hannah Fullerton (Buglife); Russell Drew (Whitemountain Programme); Richard Rogers (Groundwork); Joshua Clarke (Buglife)

Buglife buzzing after receiving support from the Whitemountain Programme

A £9,000 grant from the Whitemountain Programme will help Buglife develop Clement Wilson Park at Shaw's Bridge into a haven for pollinators.

In partnership with Belfast City Council, Buglife plan to create and protect 2.7 ha of wildflower habitat within the park. It is part of the group's B-line initiative, a concerted effort to reverse the decline in pollinating insect numbers through providing habitat corridors and re-wilding spaces.

Breedon Ireland's Whitemountain Programme provides funding for community amenity and biodiversity projects within 15 miles of Mullaghglass landill site through the Landfill Communities Fund. To date over £8.5million has been allocated to almost 250 projects. These range from sports facilities to community halls, and from wildflower meadows to play areas.

QUOTES

We recognise the vital importance of pollinators to our future and are delighted to be able to support Buglife's work through the Whitemountain Programme. We were impressed by the project's strong educational and volunteering elements as well as its conservation focus.

Richard Rogers
Groundwork Northern Ireland

We're really excited about this project and very grateful to the Whitemountain Programme for helping us get it underway. Half of Ireland's bee species have declined since 1980. Three of our 25 bumblebee species have already gone extinct, and 30% are on the brink of extinction. Two thirds of our moths and over 70% of butterflies are also in long-term decline. Northern Ireland is home to nationally rare and threatened species such as Barbut's Cuckoo-bee and Flat-ridged Nomad Bee, both recently recorded in Belfast. We need to safeguard their future and this project is a small but important step forward.

Joshua Clarke
Buglife

The Whitemountain Programme has invested over £8.5 million in community amenity and biodiversity projects since it was established in 2007. Typically we only receive a small number of applications for biodiversity focused projects so we were really delighted to be able to support this exciting initiative with Buglife.

With the forthcoming closure of Mullaghglass landfill site there will only be two further rounds of funding, so please check out the fund guidelines and, if your project is eligible, we'd be delighted to receive an application.

Russell Drew
Whitemountain Programme

NOTES TO THE EDITOR

Groundwork Northern Ireland manages the Whitemountain Programme on behalf of Breedon Ireland.

Groundwork NI is a charity that empowers local communities grown from the ground up, developing sustainable, happy and healthy places to live, work and play. One of our services is to work with partners to manage funds, ensuring money gets to where it is most needed. Throughout the years, we have distributed over £10 million in grants to community and environmental regeneration projects.

Buglife is the only organisation in Europe devoted to the conservation of all invertebrates. One of their main strategic priorities is combatting the loss of pollinating insects and their habitats.

HOW TO APPLY

If you have a great community or biodiversity focused project which lies within the 15 mile radius of Mullaghglass landfill site near Lisburn (and within 10 miles of a licensed landfill site), then why not apply? The programme is currently open for applications. To find out more visit our website www.groundwork.org.uk/whitemountain or contact us at whitemountainprogramme@groundworkni.co.uk

Grants of up to £25,000 are available for projects making a positive impact at ground level, either developing facilities for community use or encouraging biodiversity and environmental improvements.

