

## Volunteers spruce up sheltered housing gardens in Romford

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Residents at two sheltered housing schemes are enjoying their revamped gardens thanks to volunteers from Mears Group.

Volunteers from Mears Group have brought some colour back to the communal gardens at Cockabourne Court and Bards Court in Romford supported by a £1,000 grant from the [Mears Foundation](#), the organisation's charitable arm.

As part of the Foundation's Community Green Spaces initiative, volunteers planted a range of red robin bushes, lavender, hydrangeas, and rhododendron at both locations before adding chipping bark to improve the overall appearance of the flower beds. The team also filled hanging baskets at the entrance to the garden of Bards Court with colourful flowers.

The feedback has already been extremely positive, with the makeover even inspiring one resident to start a gardening club with her neighbours to ensure the new areas are kept watered and tidy.

Catarina Gibson, General Manager, Mears, said: "We were delighted to have the opportunity to help brighten up the gardens for the residents at Cockabourne Court and Bards Court. They had wanted to improve the garden for some time, so we were glad to help kickstart their plans."

Councillor Paul McGeary, Cabinet Lead for Housing, said: "I'd like to extend my thanks to Mears Group for their continued commitment to giving back to the local community through their social value programme. I think we can all agree that warmer weather and beautiful flowers can greatly improve wellbeing of residents. The work that Mears Group has undertaken have not only brightened up the communal areas but has also made the residents very happy."



Mears Group provides all colleagues with two days per year to volunteer for community and charitable initiatives that help make a real difference to local communities.