

Rewilding Camden: Beeline Boxes

@ Three Fields Estate, Arlington Rd, NW1



Images of Three Fields Estate

What if... we could co-design & manufacture metal Beeline Boxes, fill them with evergreen herbs and install them on walkways of estates in the borough of Camden?

What if... we could create a partnership between Think&Do, Camden Council, The Koko Foundation, University of the Arts London, The Front Yard Company and Camden residents?

What if... this partnership increased biodiversity in urban Camden estates, added & visual style, and helped create community?

What if ... we could pilot project this at Three Fields Estate, Camden?

See above pictures of Three Fields Estate, Arlington Rd, Camden. It's an estate off Camden High St which residents have told us has seen no council improvement for years; an estate which suffers from anti-social behaviour.

We have assessed the estate with several Camden Council risk assessment officers, met with the TRA and residents, and we have all agreed that Three Fields will be a great location to pilot the Beeline boxes project.

We will co-design and manufacture 90 metal boxes out of 1.5mm thick galvanised sheet metal - dimensions of: L850mm X W200mm x H200mm. These boxes will have carefully designed steel brackets, tailored to suit the railings at Three Fields, to

support each box in line with health and safety guidelines. These boxes filled with evergreen herb plants will be offered to residents on the estate FOC.

We have had a risk assessment meeting with Camden Council and they are happy to support this project on the basis of the boxes being made of steel, ie not plastic or wood as these are a fire hazard.

Another really exciting aspect of this project is the new partners we are bringing on board. Adam Thorpe is the Professor of Socially Responsive Design at Central St Martins College, University of the Arts London (UAL). He has already attended several meetings with us in the planning and co-design of this project and is very much on board. One of his students, Hafiz On

Another key new partner is the Front Yard Company. Based in Kentish Town, they are metal manufacturers. A key aim of ours in the development of this Beeline Box project was not to import metal boxes from overseas, but for this project to speak of localism, of a circular economy. Following meetings with Duncan Kramer, owner of Front Yard, he has agreed to partner in this project. The quote for the manufacture of the boxes is almost profit free. Think & Do feel incredibly fortunate to be collaborating with both partners.

Adam, Duncan and the team have already come up with some really creative ideas for the project, one idea is the addition of 100 small holes into the metal to create an embossed pattern on the box. Hafiz would come up with three designs - perhaps an homage to KOKO - a guitar, or similar. As part of our engagement campaign, residents would then get to choose which of the three designs they preferred. There is also scope to have KOKO embossed into the metal (not currently cost).

Another addition to this project is an idea to pay young people living on Three Fields to become our Camden Rewilders. We think it's really important to include this as it will help encourage project success, it speaks to youth opportunity: a key KOKO Foundation aim and it engages young people with nature.

Proposed Timeline

Months	Tasks
January/February/March	Meetings with TRA/Council. CSM/FY. Box costings. Box design. Initial resident engagement
April/May	Full resident engagement
May/June	Window box manufacture.
May	Resident Herby workshop
July	Planting event. Box delivery and installation

1 1	4 x Camden Rewilders plus caretaker oversee watering/herb box upkeep
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