

# Become a Hedgehog Hero

February 2021

## Our Hedgehogs need your help!

Since 2000, we have lost over half of our hedgehog population from the countryside and a third from our towns and cities, and hedgehogs are now classed as 'vulnerable to extinction.'

There are lots of things you can do to make hedgehogs right at home in your very own garden which would really help them out as they are struggling to find safe places to live.

### Starter ideas...

- **Go mad and do nothing!** At this point of the year in the lead up to Spring people often tidy up however, by leaving a small corner of your garden to go a bit mad, and overgrown can help not only hedgehogs who are hibernating stay sleeping but also other insects who are overwintering.

- **Build a hedgehog home.** To build your own hedgehog home you can visit: <https://www.wildsheffield.com/getinvolved/actions/how-to-make-a-hedgehog-house/> to view a video. Alternatively, visit our website for instructions: <https://ecclesfield-pc.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/Hedgehog-Street-Hedgehog-houses-instructions-2018.pdf>

- **Feeding.** Leaving out wet cat or dog food is a great supplement and can be a great support for hedgehogs especially in early Spring, as they come out of hibernation. This may attract other animals too, so

making a hedgehog friendly feeding site would be great. Remember though, no milk! Hedgehogs are lactose intolerant.



- **Start your own hedgehog highway.**

One of the main reasons hedgehogs are struggling at the moment is they

can't get through garden fences. By making a small hole 13cm x 13cm, you will be helping them to be able to move freely. Make sure you check with your neighbours

too. For anyone who does make a small hole we have some special hedgehog highway marker plaques to help these to remain



open. Just email [emmamainwaring@ecclesfield-pc.gov.uk](mailto:emmamainwaring@ecclesfield-pc.gov.uk) with a picture and we'll send you two out... One for each side of the fence.

Whatever you choose to do, please send us some photos which you are happy for us to share and we will publish them on our new Hedgehog Hero section on our website, as well as our Facebook page (@ecclesfieldparishcouncil), the more of us who get involved, the more we can bolster out spiky resident population. Just email them across to [emmamainwaring@ecclesfield-pc.gov.uk](mailto:emmamainwaring@ecclesfield-pc.gov.uk)



Photo Credits: British Hedgehog Preservation Society and Hedgehog Street