

Kinnesswood in Bloom Benarty View



Kinnesswood in Bloom has successfully created a wonderful community garden, Benarty View, on the outskirts of the village. After much planning, fundraising and hard work, the group achieved their ambition to give the local community a tranquil and scenic garden with stunning views to Loch Leven, Benarty Hill and beyond. It is close to the golf course and popular cycle and walking ways including the Michael Bruce Way and so is ideally located to be used and appreciated by a high number of people.

Project Background

The project was initiated by Kinnesswood in Bloom (KiB) in 2016 with the aim of transforming an overgrown and inaccessible “nature strip” left over following the completion of a housing development. As a member of Take Pride in Perth & Kinross Association (TPPKA), the group were eligible and encouraged to apply to TPPKA for project management and fundraising support. This support and the determination of KiB meant that a final design for the garden was soon agreed, there was widespread community backing for the plans, funding was secured from a number of sources and KiB were ready to get going...

Project Details

- The site was cleared of overgrown vegetation and trees were selectively thinned to open up the view to Loch Leven.
- New steps and a footpath lead to a central seating area featuring a tapered drystone wall with bespoke wooden seating.
- The area has been partly turfed with the remainder given over to existing mature trees and perennial planting chosen to encourage pollinator insects and enhance biodiversity.
- The area has been designed to be low maintenance so future generations can continue to look after it with minimal effort.
- Another important aspect of the garden is its focus on the area’s heritage and history. An interpretation board was commissioned which describes the area’s history in relation to archaeological finds throughout the ages, the importance of local quarry and stonemasons, as well as its natural heritage.

Project Outcomes

By fulfilling this project, Kinnesswood in Bloom has:

- Improved the environmental quality of the village for the benefit of residents and visitors.
- Enhanced quality of life by promoting the health and wellbeing benefits of being outdoors and experiencing natural heritage and environment.
- Created pride in the neighbourhood and drawn the community together behind a shared goal.
- Provided opportunities for all ages and abilities to participate in the project, learn new skills and share knowledge.

Village residents and project funders were invited to a garden party to celebrate the grand opening of Benarty View and the dedication of the memorial bench. This was held during the Portmoak Festival and was an excellent way to make people aware of the site and encourage its use.



www.kinnesswoodinbloom.org

Stakeholders

Kinnesswood in Bloom
Local Residents
Portmoak Primary School
Take a Pride in Perth & Kinross Assoc.
Portmoak Community Council
Perth & Kinross Council

Funders

Community Environment
Challenge Fund **£10,000**
Scottish Landfill Community
Fund **£9,698**
Awards for All **£7,669**
Memorial Bench **£2,400**
Kinross-shire Fund **£2,000**
Local & Bloom Funds **£750**
Portmoak Community Council **£463**

Total Project Cost:
£33,000



Lessons Learned

One lesson learned was the need to keep funders “on-side” when the project did not proceed as quickly as we had hoped. Having a Licence to Occupy at an earlier stage would have enabled the project to progress more quickly, but the transfer of land ownership timescales were out with our control.

Being adaptable was advantageous and actually added value. The memorial bench in memory of a well loved local was incorporated into the design at a later stage, as was a sculpture designed by the Cubs as part of “Year of Young People 2018”. When things didn’t go to plan, it was very helpful to have the support of TPPKA to get us back on track.

“The bench was a fitting tribute to a genuinely lovely person and is a beautiful little area at the edge of the village for people to rest, contemplate and enjoy the view. Well done to Kinnesswood in Bloom - a real success!!”
Ann - Kinnesswood resident

Timeline

