



TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

1 April 2022 - 31 March 2023

Approved by the Trustees and signed on their behalf by

Karen McDonnell, Chairman

Karen McDonnell

Date 20-05-2023

1. Aims of the Association

1.1 Aims: The Take a Pride in Perthshire Association was established in 1998 as a charity registered with the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR). Its aims are to enhance the environment, foster community spirit and encourage public participation in improvement projects, across Perth & Kinross, that deliver public benefit.

1.2 Charitable objectives:

- To improve the environment and quality of life throughout the Perth & Kinross Local Authority area, by supporting and enabling voluntary Environment “in Bloom” Groups in their work to protect, care for and enhance their local natural, horticultural, cultural and built environment and heritage.
- To advance the education of the public by supporting and encouraging educational initiatives concerning the local environment and other related issues and by providing lifelong learning about the natural environment through environmental campaigns and sustainable improvement projects.
- To advance community development by fostering community spirit and pride of place by encouraging public participation for the achievement of these and other related purposes.

In furtherance of the above charitable purposes the organisation will:

- Enhance local amenities and facilities through environmental campaigns and improvement projects.
- Support community initiatives and social causes through fundraising and charitable work.

2. Structure, Governance and Management

2.1 The Association’s governing document is a constitution, drawn up in 1998 and regularly reviewed, most recently in June 2021.

2.2 Membership of the Association is open to representatives from all ‘In Bloom’ groups in the Perth and Kinross area. An Annual General Meeting, which is open to all member groups, is held in the first quarter of the financial year (April, May or June).

2.3 The governing body is a Committee of Trustees, appointed at the AGM from its member organisations and Perth & Kinross Council. The Committee met 7 times during 2022-23 at the Royal George Hotel

2.4 Financial Management: as specified in the Constitution, all funds are applied in accordance with the Objectives of the Association and monies not required for immediate purposes are held in a 12-month Fixed-term Savings Account. The Treasurer, at the Annual General Meeting, submits accounts of the Income and Expenditure and of the Balance Sheet at the end of the financial year (31st March). These accounts are independently scrutinised within the provisions of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006. The Accounts and Statements of Balances for April 2022 to March 2023 are presented to the members at the AGM in the Treasurer's Report.

2.5 List of Trustees 2022-23: Chairman: Karen McDonnell (Scotlandwell in Bloom); Secretary: Caroline Boyle (Abernethy in Bloom); Treasurer: Monica Straughan (Beautiful Perth); Other Trustees: Jenny Williams (PKC); Susan Crawford (Muthill in Bloom); Norma Smith (Kinnesswood in Bloom); Louise Summers (Luncarty in Bloom); Elspeth Bruce (PKC/Beautiful Perth); Barry Starck (Pride In Meigle 2015); Willie Wilson (Viewlands Venture) Advisers: Charlie Hardman (Project Development Adviser); Lorna Sharp (Independent Examiner)

2.6 Trustee Remuneration: The Trustees all act on a voluntary basis and no remunerations are paid.

2.7 Project Development Advisers: The project development role is provided by Nicki Souter Associates (NSA). The Association's contract with NSA was renewed in March 2022 for a further two-year period.

3. Achievements and performance 2022/23

When member groups initiate local environmental projects, the Association provides, on request, project management services, including the all-important fundraising. During the year 2022-23 the following projects were undertaken by member groups in partnership with the Association:

3.1 *Projects under development:*

- **Abernethy – Heritage Garden (Abernethy in Bloom)** Design proposals for the development of an imaginative and attractive Heritage Garden at the prominent Hatton Road site was agreed following public consultation. The Garden will facilitate physical access and usage for all and will also provide information regarding the

history and heritage of Abernethy village. The contract for Phase 1 of the project started on site in March 2022 and is now concluded. This included the construction of boundary and internal walls; laying footpaths; preparing planting beds and installing bench seats. Funding totalling £79,000 has been raised.

Phase 2 is underway which includes the installation of stone fish features and information boards to complete the Project.

- **St Fillans – ‘Still’ Sculpture (St Fillans in Bloom)** The local environmental group had exciting plans to reinstate the ‘Still’ sculpture to Loch Earn. Created by Scottish sculptor and environmental artist Rob Mulholland, the sculpture was commissioned by the previous owner of the Four Seasons Hotel but was removed from the loch when the hotel was sold in 2017. The sculpture previously formed part of the BLISS Art trail, a series of sculptures and installations from local artists and architects found through the villages of Balquidder, Lochearnhead, Strathyre and St Fillans. St Fillans in Bloom has purchased the sculpture from the present owner and has been granted planning permission to reinstate it in the waters of Loch Earn. Fund raising is complete and the group have liaised with the artist to ensure the siting and installation of the sculpture retains the concept of his original vision.
- **Ardoch/Braco – Cock and Hen Wall Restoration (Ardoch in Bloom)** The Southern approach to Braco features a “Cock and Hen“ dry stone wall, approximately 200m in length, linking the local new Cemetery to the Village of Braco. This wall has fallen in to a state of disrepair. The local group has already undertaken the conservation of 50 metres as part of a Phase 1 Project resulting in a structurally and aesthetically improved feature. However, given the length of the wall, Ardoch in Bloom wished to continue with improvements and conserve the whole length of the wall and, in doing so, conserve this feature. A total of £ 71K was raised and works have since commenced.
- **Comrie – Enhancement of War Memorial Garden (Comrie in Colour)** This Project will protect the importance of the site for future generations, both as a of place of reflection and a source of information. It will also continue to provide an area for ceremonial events, such as Remembrance Day. The improvement plans for the Garden will provide a lower maintenance approach to managing the site whilst enhancing the aesthetics and renewing seating areas therein. New planting areas will feature pollinator friendly planting and increase biodiversity. Comrie has a rich military history and regeneration of the garden will enable interpretation of this. It will also link to other sites in the vicinity, such as Cultybraggan Camp, thus increasing the interest

for visitors to Comrie. Designs for the refurbishment of the Garden have been produced and presented at a Community consultation, which were positively received.

- **Scotlandwell Wash House** – Application received and agreed for the renovation of Spring wall and railings, etc.
- **Blair Atholl Nature Garden** – Application received and agreed for the creation of a nature garden suitable for children.
- **Meigle Entrance Feature** – Application received and agreed for the creation of an enhanced entrance feature in Meigle.

4.2 Completed projects:

- **Alyth Burn Side Enhancement (Alyth in Bloom).** This exciting and ambitious landscape improvement project at Alyth Burn Side started on site in May 2021. Hard landscaping of a new riverside path, replacement tree planting and burnside railings, was successfully completed in late September 2021. Thereafter bench seating, planters, an interpretation board and a listening post were installed. The official opening in July 2022 included the installation of a piece of public art in recognition of the significance of the project. Alyth in Bloom are to be commended for their persistence and for securing funding totalling £152,000 for this project.
- **Crosswell Fountain Project (Kinross In Bloom).** This project was focussed on restoring the 19th Century C-Listed Crosswell Fountain. Although structurally in good condition, the fountain required some conservation and stabilisation works. The project has ensured that part of the core-built heritage of Kinross will be preserved for future generations, and along with the repairs an Interpretation Board has been installed.
- **Pitlochry Wildlife Garden (Pitlochry In Bloom)** The Wildlife Garden was originally created in 1998 as a wildlife garden for people to visit and observe the varied wildlife species and enjoy the tranquillity of the area. Now over 20 years old Pitlochry in Bloom wanted to bring the garden up-to-date and revitalise it, whilst retaining the best of what was currently there. An ambitious project took place which included re-developing the garden to make it low maintenance, replacing the interpretation panels and retaining wall, creating a central stone seating area and new interest points around the garden, complete with new paths and surfaces. .

5 Chairman's Message

As Chairman I have the privilege of being associated with the work of so many committed volunteers in communities across Perth & Kinross. Our combined effort

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makes a difference in so many different ways, from the feel-good factor of spending time with like-minded people to the impact each project makes within communities and the legacy 'in Bloom' leaves in its wake.

The unwavering focus on environmental improvement and the uniqueness of our project weaves a very rich tapestry, and each year of success adds a further layer of dedication to our partnership working...something to be rightly proud of. Our innovative thinking as 'bloomers' now spans 27 years and our willingness to share what works or sometimes what doesn't helps each of our communities move forward together.

As indicated in the Treasurer's Report, we continue to be financially viable and to enjoy the active involvement of volunteers from the community-based environment groups in Perth & Kinross. At the hub of our work is partnership working with Perth and Kinross Council's Community Greenspace Team who support each group and help them to bring out the best in their communities and bring a can-do attitude to each and every project, this is vital to our continued success. I know I can speak on behalf of the whole in Bloom when I say 'we couldn't do it without you'.

I have loved being back in the Chair of the Take a Pride in Perthshire Association over the last year and I sincerely thank my fellow Trustees for making it easy for me and of course their commitment and enthusiasm.

In my day job I speak to businesses here and around the world about sustainability, what it means for their organisation and what can they do differently to have a positive impact. As a volunteer with the Take a Pride in Perthshire Association I am side by side with people who take ownership of their environment, find ways of enhancing it through engaging with others adopting an holistic approach that is truly transformational. People power in action for which I thank you.

Karen McDonnell, Chairman, Take a Pride in Perthshire Association