



TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

1 April 2019 - 31 March 2020

Approved by the Trustees and signed on their behalf by

William Ronald, Chairman

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Date 15 -05 -2020.....

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.

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 May 2019.

2.2 Membership of the Association is open to representatives from all 48 ‘In Bloom’ groups in the Perth and Kinross area. An Annual General Meeting, which is open to all member groups, is held in April or May.

2.3 The governing body is a Committee of Trustees, appointed at the AGM from the member organisations and Perth & Kinross Council. The Committee meets regularly (9 times in 2019/20 – a slightly reduced number due to the Covid-19 pandemic ‘lockdown’).

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 2019-20 are presented to the members at the AGM in the Treasurer's Report.

2.5 List of Trustees 2019-20: Chairman: Bill Ronald; Secretary: Mary Birch (Blairgowrie & Rattray in Bloom); Treasurer: Monica Straughan (Beautiful Perth). Other Trustees: Judy Pirie (Auchterarder in Bloom); Caroline Boyle (Abernethy in Bloom) Ian Lamond of Abernethy in Bloom was a formally co-opted deputy for Caroline on three occasions when she was unavailable to attend; Susan Crawford (Muthill in Bloom); Avril Fulton (Brig in Bloom); Norma Smith (Kinnesswood in Bloom); Jenny Williams (Perth & Kinross Council). Graham Barnett (Kinross in Bloom). Having been elected at the AGM on 11th May 2019, unfortunately, Graham had to stand down for personal reasons in October 2019; Advisers: Kirsten Mathison (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 Adviser: The project development role is provided by Nicki Souter Associates (NSA) based in Auchterarder. The Association's contract with NSA was renewed in March 2020 for a further two-year period.

3. Covid-19

During March 2020 the global pandemic of coronavirus Covid-19 meant that Scotland was put into 'lockdown', with Government advice that people should stay at home and all non-essential work should be put on hold until further notice. Our member groups had to cancel their usual voluntary work sessions and contractors were not able to undertake planned work on a number of our projects. Anticipated expenditure has been delayed and work will proceed on these projects only when Government guidance allows. All grant bodies who have provided funds for the projects have been notified of delays and are understanding of the situation.

Our Committee meetings were suspended and the Annual General Meeting, normally held in April or May, has been postponed until later in the year, Government restrictions allowing. This Annual Report and the Annual Accounts have been prepared and independently examined without face-to-face contact, in line with the Government's social distancing rules. OSCR has advised that key decisions may be made using 'digital solutions' so the Accounts and this Report have been published on the Association's website and circulated to members by email for approval.

4. Achievements and performance 2019/20

When member groups initiate local environmental projects, the Association provides, on request, project management services, including the all-important fundraising. During the year 2019-20 the following projects were undertaken by member groups in partnership with the Association:

4.1 *Projects under development:*

- **Alyth Burnside Enhancement (Alyth in Bloom).** Design proposals have been finalised following community consultation, for this exciting and ambitious landscape improvement project at Alyth Burnside. Over £112,000 of funds have been secured and the contract has been awarded for Phase 1 of the works which includes the preparatory works of site clearance and masonry work on the burnside wall. The work was scheduled to begin in April 2020 but the Covid-19 pandemic 'lockdown' meant that the work on site has had to be postponed. Tender documents have been prepared for Phase 2 of the project which includes the hard landscaping of a new riverside path and seating areas, and fitting burnside railings. Phase 3 will see art works, bench seating, an interpretation board and a listening post being installed.
- **Abernethy – Heritage Garden (Abernethy in Bloom)** Design proposals for the development of an imaginative community garden at the prominent Hatton Road site have been 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 the village. Estimated costs for the project are in the region of £82,000 and fund raising is underway.
- **Pitlochry Wildlife Garden (Pitlochry in Bloom).** With designs having been agreed following public consultation, the contract has been awarded for the renewal of the old Wildlife Garden in Pitlochry. Work on site was due to start in March 2020 but, as with the Alyth Burnside project, the global pandemic has meant that the project is presently 'on hold'. Funds totalling £35,000 have been secured for the project.
- **Blairgowrie “Ruby Renovations” (Blairgowrie and Rattray in Bloom).** To mark its 40th Anniversary, the local group has planned a number of projects, the main one being the refurbishment of Coronation Corner in Blairgowrie. Designs for the site have been agreed and tender documents prepared for the works. However, the project has had to be put 'on hold' due to the Covid-19 pandemic 'lockdown'. Funds totalling £41,000 have been secured for the project.

- **Kinross – Renovation of Crosswell Fountain (Kinross in Bloom).** The 19th Century C Listed fountain was structurally in good condition but required some conservation and stabilisation works. Funds totalling £24,000 were secured for the project. A specialist masonry contract was awarded in February for the works, which started on site in March. The nature of the work meant that it could proceed during the ‘lockdown’ period with a single mason working in ‘isolation’. The project will ensure that part of the core-built heritage of Kinross will be preserved for future generations. The location has been agreed for the provision of an Information Board close to the fountain and an application for Planning permission will be submitted.

4.2 Completed projects:

- **Auchterarder - Garrie’s Corner (Auchterarder in Bloom).** This landscape enhancement scheme, which has totally transformed the site, included decorative stone walling, screen fencing, seating, wheelchair access and planting areas. Following several frustrating delays, which were out with our control, the works were completed in September 2019 at a cost of £78,000.
- **Kinnesswood - Benarty View (Kinnesswood In Bloom) and Bridge of Earn – Brickhall and Balmanno Community Garden (Brig in Bloom).** Following 12 months’ satisfactory maintenance at both sites, retention fees were paid to the landscape contractors.

4.3 Project Application received and approved for support

- **Bridge of Earn - Brickhall Community Garden, Phase 2 (Brig in Bloom).** This project is to complete the much admired Brickhall Community Garden. Discussions with the Landscape Architect to progress plans and designs, and to establish probable costs, will take place when Government guidance on the pandemic allows.

5 Chairman’s Message

For the 22 years that the unique Take a Pride in Perthshire Association has been in existence, a total of approximately £2 million has been raised for, and invested in, improvement projects across the length and breadth of Perth and Kinross. As indicated in the Treasurer’s Report, the Association continues to be financially viable and to enjoy the active involvement of volunteers from 48 community-based environment groups in Perth & Kinross.

As described above, the Association has worked with communities across Perth & Kinross during the past twelve months to develop and deliver a range of excellent projects that are enhancing the local environment to the benefit of the people who live and work in the area, and those who choose to visit our area.

It has been an honour to be Chairman of the Take a Pride in Perthshire Association for the past year.

Bill Ronald,

Chairman, Take a Pride in Perthshire Association