



# TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

1 April 2017 - 31 March 2018

Approved by the Trustees and signed on their behalf by

William Ronald, Chairman

.....*W Ronald*.....

Date *14-04-2018*.....

## **1. Aims of the Association**

- 1.1 Aims: the Association was established in 1998 as a charity registered with the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator. 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 Groups in their work to protect, care for and enhance their local natural, horticultural, cultural and built environment and heritage; to advance environmental education through public campaigns and sustainable improvement projects; to foster community spirit and pride of place by encouraging public participation.

## **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 March 2018.
- 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, is held in April.
- 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 2017/18).
- 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 (31<sup>st</sup> March). These accounts are independently scrutinised within the provisions of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006.
- 2.5 List of Trustees 2017-18: Chairman: Bill Ronald (Coupar Angus Pride of Place); Secretary: Mary Birch (Blairgowrie & Rattray In Bloom); Treasurer: Monica Straughan (Beautiful Perth). Other Trustees: Judy Pirie (Auchterarder In Bloom); Caroline Boyle (Abernethy In Bloom);

Muriel Gregory (Comrie in Colour); Susan Crawford (Muthill In Bloom); George Smith (Brig in Bloom) Trustee from 22<sup>nd</sup> April until 7<sup>th</sup> November 2017; Norma Smith (Kinnesswood In Bloom); Liz Ibbetson (Dunkeld & Birnam In Bloom); Jenny Williams (Perth & Kinross Council) . Advisors: Zoe Gamble (Project Advisor); Kirsten Mathison (Project Advisor); Hunter Hope (Independent Examiner)

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

### **3. Achievements and performance 2017/18**

When member groups initiate local environmental projects, the Association can provide project management services, including fundraising, on request. During the year 2017-18 the following projects were undertaken by member groups in partnership with the Association:

#### *3.1 Projects under development:*

- **Brickhall and Balmanno Community Garden, Bridge of Earn (Brig In Bloom).** This project has two parts: a rural heritage project (Bridging the Past) and a landscaping project. Total funding of £57,000 has been secured for the overall project, including £9,100 for the rural heritage project from the Heritage Lottery Fund's 'Stories, Stones and Bones' programme, to celebrate the Year of History Heritage and Archaeology. A contractor has been appointed with works due to start on site in the next few weeks.
- **Benarty View Environmental Enhancement project (Kinnesswood In Bloom).** This landscape project is now progressing following a long delay due to lease negotiations. Funding of £26,600 is in place, legal matters, including the Licence to Occupy, will soon be finalised, final drawings have been agreed and tender documents are ready to be issued.
- **Garrie's Corner: new Town Square (Auchterarder in Bloom).** Estimated cost £45,000. Sketch designs have been prepared for this landscape enhancement scheme which includes decorative stone walling, screen fencing, seating, wheelchair access and planting areas. Public consultation is being co-ordinated and letters of support gathered prior to funding applications being submitted

- **Leafy Coos, Burrell Square, Crieff (Crieff in Leaf).** An imaginative project to enhance Burrell Square with three “Coo” sculptures and soft landscaping at an estimated cost of £32,000. Some two-thirds of the required funding has been secured by the local group with the shortfall being sourced. It is planned to have the sculptures installed on site in July '18.
- **Pitlochry Wildlife Garden (Pitlochry in Bloom).** Sketch designs have been prepared for the renewal/refurbishment of the old Wildlife Garden in Pitlochry at a probable cost of £27,500. Public consultation has been undertaken. Funding applications to be submitted.
- **Alyth Burnside (Alyth in Bloom).** Sketch design proposals have been prepared for an ambitious landscape enhancement project at Alyth Burnside. Still in its early stages, the local group are holding a fund-raising and public consultation event in April prior to funding applications being made.
- **Blairgowrie “Ruby Renovations” (Blairgowrie and Rattray in Bloom).** To mark its 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, the local group are planning a number of projects, the main one being the landscape refurbishment and enhancement of Coronation Corner in Blairgowrie.
- **Birnam Circular Walk (Dunkeld and Birnam in Bloom).** Project on hold due to on-going consultation on the dualling of the A9

### 3.2 Completed projects:

- **Lower Birks Project (Aberfeldy Move2Improve).** This excellent environmental improvement project has been successfully delivered on time and within the budget of £74,000. Funds were raised through local fundraising activities and grants were secured from SSE Griffin & Calliacher wind farm Fund, Perth & Kinross Council Community Environment Challenge Fund and Rural P&K LEADER. The project included both hard and soft landscaping, new paths, picnic areas, feature stone walls and seating, shrub and hedge planting plus a striking feature sculpture.
- **Coupar Burn Biodiversity Project (Coupar Angus Pride of Place).** This project was successfully delivered within the budget of £29,500. Funding was secured from the Heritage Lottery Fund, Perth & Kinross Council Community Environment Challenge Fund and Rural P&K LEADER for this Burnside project. The project included the coppicing of shrubs and pollarding of trees; planting trees, shrubs and bulbs; installing

Information panels; providing a seating area; working with local primary schoolchildren on a wildlife survey and producing leaflets; installing bird and bat boxes.

#### **4. Chairman's message**

It was with great sadness that fellow Trustee George Smith passed away in November 2017 after a long and brave fight with illness. Affectionately known as "Mr Bloom" in his beloved Bridge of Earn, George was a true "Community Champion". A kindly, helpful man, he dedicated 19 years of his life to voluntary work, driving Brig in Bloom to become a Gold Award winner in the Beautiful Scotland and Take a Pride in Perthshire competitions. George was remarkable in terms of his selfless contribution to his local community and to the Take a Pride in Perthshire Association. His exceptional skills and dedication were recognised in 2016 by the awarding of a prestigious Certificate of Merit by the Royal Caledonian Horticultural Society, awarded to those "who have made an outstanding contribution to Scottish Horticulture and Gardening". He is greatly missed.

It has been my honour to be Chairman of the Take a Pride in Perthshire Association for the past year. Twenty years "old" in 2018, the Association continues to be financially viable and to enjoy the active involvement of volunteers from 48 community-based environment groups in Perth & Kinross – an achievement worth celebrating!

As described above, we have 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 Perth & Kinross.

**Bill Ronald, Chairman**

14 April 2018