



TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

1 April 2020 - 31 March 2021

Approved by the Trustees and signed on their behalf by

William Ronald, Chairman

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Date 07 -06 -2021.....

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 May 2019.

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 normally meets 9 times a year but at the Committee Meeting in March 2020, the decision was taken to cancel all

Committee meetings for the foreseeable future following the government's guidance on the coronavirus pandemic. From October 2020 through to March 2021, three Committee meetings were held 'virtually' via Zoom.

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 2020 to March 2021 are presented to the members at the AGM in the Treasurer's Report.

2.5 List of Trustees 2020-21: Chairman: Bill Ronald; Secretary: Mary Birch (Blairgowrie & Rattray in Bloom); Treasurer: Monica Straughan (Beautiful Perth). Other Trustees: Caroline Boyle (Abernethy in Bloom) Ian Lamond of Abernethy in Bloom was a formally co-opted deputy for Caroline on one occasion 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).; 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

The global pandemic of coronavirus Covid-19 meant that Scotland was in lockdown or under strict social distancing rules throughout this financial year. This limited the usual range of activities undertaken by the volunteers in our member groups. Despite inevitable delays due to the pandemic, significant progress was made on major projects which involved outdoor working, following social distancing rules. All grant bodies who have provided funds for the projects have been notified of delays and are understanding of the situation.

This year's Annual General Meeting, which would normally be held in May, has been postponed until June 2021, and will be held 'virtually' via Zoom. 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 will be published on the Association's website following the virtual AGM.

4. Achievements and performance 2020/21

When member groups initiate local environmental projects, the Association provides, on request, project management services, including the all-important fundraising. During the year 2020-21 the following projects were undertaken by member groups in partnership with the Association:

4.1 *Projects under development:*

- **Alyth Burn Side Enhancement (Alyth in Bloom).** There has been steady progress with this exciting and ambitious landscape improvement project at Alyth Burn Side, for which over £148,000 of funding has been secured. The project has not been without its challenges! Firstly, the Covid-19 pandemic 'lockdown' meant that the work on site was delayed. Secondly, following completion of the Phase 1 preparatory contract, which included site clearance, installing the hardcore base layer for paving and masonry work on the burnside wall, the site was severely flooded and badly damaged in August 2020. This resulted in much of the Phase 1 work having to be done again.
The contract for Phase 2 of the project, which includes the hard landscaping of a new riverside path, replacement tree planting and installing burnside railings, has been awarded and is due to start on site in April 2021. Phase 3 will see art works, bench seating, planters, an interpretation board and a listening post being installed.
- **Abernethy – Heritage Garden (Abernethy in Bloom)** Design proposals for the development of an imaginative Heritage 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 Abernethy village. Funding totalling £50,000 has been raised and tender documents are being prepared for Phase 1 of the project.

- **Pitlochry Wildlife Garden (Pitlochry in Bloom).** Following public consultation, designs for the refurbishment of the old Wildlife Garden were agreed. Tenders for the works were obtained and the contract awarded in December 2019. Work on site was due to start in March 2020 but, as with the Alyth Burnside project, the global pandemic meant that the project was temporarily put 'on hold'. Bad weather earlier this year resulted in unworkable ground conditions which brought further delays. The majority of the renewal work has now been completed with just the sowing and planting of wildflowers still to be carried out. Funds totalling £35,000 were secured for this project.
- **Blairgowrie Coronation Corner (Blairgowrie and Rattray in Bloom).** To mark its 40th Anniversary in 2018, the local Bloom group planned a number of projects, the main one being the refurbishment of Coronation Corner greenspace in Blairgowrie. Since its original development in 1953 to mark the Queen's Coronation, the site had gradually deteriorated to become a rather unattractive area in the middle of town with over-hanging trees, overgrown and uninspiring plant beds and bench seating and pergola very much past their best. Following public consultation, designs for the site, which included a circular pathway, planting beds, bench seating and an events space, were agreed, tenders for the works obtained and the contract awarded in August 2020 for the renewal of the site. This project was also delayed due to the Covid-19 pandemic 'lockdown'; however, the majority of the renewal work has now been completed. Funds totalling £41,000 were secured for this project.

4.2 Completed projects:

- **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 2020 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'. Now complete, the project has ensured that part of the core-built heritage of Kinross has been preserved for future generations. An Information Board has been installed close to the fountain.
- **Kinnesswood - Benarty View (Kinnesswood In Bloom)** Following 12 months' satisfactory maintenance, retention fees were paid to the landscape contractor.

5 Chairman's Message

For the 23 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 in 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 the 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. The strength of our partnership with Perth and Kinross Council's Community Greenspace Team is vital to our continued success. I thank them for their ongoing support.

It has been an honour to be Chairman of the Take a Pride in Perthshire Association for the past year and I sincerely thank my fellow Trustees for their commitment, enthusiasm and support in what has been a difficult and challenging year. I also wish to thank the 'Bloom family' of volunteers across the length and breadth of Perth and Kinross who continue to care for and enhance our precious environment.

Bill Ronald,

Chairman, Take a Pride in Perthshire Association